

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MARCH 1982

Egyptian-Israeli Border

Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali agreed on the border demarcation at Rafah, Jerusalem radio reported. Rafah will be cut in two without any houses being destroyed or evacuated, and the population will total 60,000 on the Israeli side and about 10,000 on the Egyptian side. However, agreement has not yet been reached over the demarcation in the Elat area, the radio noted.

'Ali said in remarks broadcast by Cairo radio that work on the demarcation of the border and on the Egyptian takeover of southern Sinai is proceeding in full swing by both sides. Differences over the Tabah and Rafah borders will be settled, he added. However, the Cairo paper AL-JUMHURIYAH said Egypt has proposed to Israel that the dispute over the Tabah border, which 'Ali and Sharon failed to resolve, should be settled by international arbitration, Cairo radio reported.

Israel

Habib Mission -- U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib held separate meetings with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Jerusalem television reported. Habib told Shamir that he had formed the impression that Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are interested in maintaining the current stability and avoiding opening fire, the television noted, while Shamir said Israel will not take action if the present situation continues, although he emphasized that Israel wants to find a solution to Lebanon's basic problems.

Prime Minister Begin's office denied a NEWSWEEK report that the U.S. administration had asked Israel not to act with cunning in its conflict with the terrorists in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported.

Relations With France -- Official Jerusalem sources revealed that the French-Israeli joint commission will examine the possible sale of a French nuclear reactor and French armaments to Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the radio, Energy Minister Yitzhaq Berman said negotiations with France regarding the purchase of nuclear reactors have not reached an advanced stage and no agreement concerning any purchase can be talked about.

Egypt

The two acquitted defendants in the Anwar as-Sadat assassination case were rearrested for their involvement in the Al-Jihad terrorist organization, MENA reported.

Libya

A Foreign Liaison Bureau source announced that all Libyans living abroad will have the opportunity to meet with Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi during his official visit to Austria, which starts 10 March, JANA reported. The Libyan exiles will be able to discuss with Al-Qadhafi the circumstances and problems that have prevented them from returning to Libya.

Lebanon

PLO Central Committee member Salah Khalaf claimed in an interview published by Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD that Lebanese Front Armed Forces Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil has sent more than 1,000 men to Israel to hold joint exercises with the IDF in preparation for an attack on Ad-Damur and other positions on the Lebanese coast.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Islamic Conference Mediation -- The Islamic Conference delegation held a lengthy meeting with Iran's Supreme Defense Council and later returned to Jidda, Tehran radio reported. The radio subsequently broadcast an interview with Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who said the Iranians strongly rejected the delegation's call for Iran to make concessions. Iran has no other option but to force Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to submit through the victories of its armed forces at the fronts, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added. However, the Majlis speaker said the mediation delegation had stressed that pressure needs to be exerted on Iraq to make it submit to reality and that Iraq should withdraw its forces before any discussions. But the delegation made no clear proposal concerning indemnity, did not discuss the issue of returning Iraqi refugees to Iraq and asked Iran to submit to discussions concerning the Shatt al'Arab waterway, he added. The Iranians told the mediators that it is not right to make concessions to aggressors, who should be punished, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. According to the Majlis speaker, the mediators accepted Iran's demands as just but said their role is not to pass judgment but is to bring the two sides closer together through mutual concessions. They mean well and are genuinely trying to end the war, he went on, but they should exert pressure on the aggressor, and not expect the wronged party to show forgiveness.

Jordanian Reinforcements -- A new group of Jordanian volunteers left for Iraq to fight alongside the Iraqi Armed Forces, Amman television reported.

Iran

Listening Post Denial -- In an interview with Tehran radio, Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi denied Western reports that Iran and the Soviet Union have jointly established a listening post in eastern Iran, near Baluchestan.

Fugitives Arrested -- Revolution guards arrested 41 people intending to leave the country illegally by boat, Shiraz radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia granted permission for an Iranian Air Force pilot flying a Phantom aircraft to land at a Saudi military base on 4 March, according to a Defense and Aviation Ministry statement carried by SPA.

Afghanistan

BBC world service reported that guerrilla leaders have admitted losing about 1,000 men when a joint DRA-Soviet force surrounded and stormed a rebel stronghold north of Kabul.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT LEAVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT TO GDR 9 MAR

NC090807 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left for the GDR this morning on a 2-day official visit.

A spokesman for the GDR Foreign Ministry has stated that GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker will meet with brother leader Abu 'Ammar.

Informed sources in the German capital have described the visit as extremely important, pointing out that a number of agreements on bilateral cooperation in various fields will be signed. The sources said that German officials are preparing to receive brother leader Abu 'Ammar as head of state and the PLO delegation accompanying him. Honecker will be among those who will receive him at the airport. The sources have also referred to the excellent relations between the GDR and the PLO in all fields, considering Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit as a culmination of the two visits which two Palestinian delegations paid to Berlin during the past 3 months.

DFLP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEFAR SAVA BOMB

JN082040 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2020 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 8 Mar (SANA) -- The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has claimed responsibility for today's explosion at a Zionist enemy central bus station in Kefar Sava.

This was included in a statement issued by the DFLP's forces operating in the occupied territories.

The statement explained that the explosion killed or wounded a number of the enemy and caused other material losses. The enemy radio admitted the operation.

SALAH KHALAF ON LEBANON, AREA DEVELOPMENTS

GF071841 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Mar 82 p 7

["Text" of Zaki Shihab interview with Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, in Beirut "on the eve of his departure to Damascus last week"]

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD: Political circles are talking about the possibility of Israel launching a military attack against southern Lebanon and Beirut. How correct are these expectations, and what are the latest developments in the Palestinian arena that could prompt Israel to embark on such an adventure?

Abu Iyad: Of course the possibility of an attack against southern Lebanon is always there. I think statements by Israeli officials indicate they are waiting for any pretext.

Nothing new has occurred in the Palestinian arena. On the contrary, all the rumors about the arrival of Soviet weapons and the stockpiling of arms are intended to exaggerate matters so that Israel can win over public opinion by saying the Palestinians are carrying out operations from Lebanon and their weapons are increasing. The possibility of an attack exists, but I cannot determine its time or say for instance that an attack is imminent.

AL-ITTIHAD: Some politicians believe the Palestinian revolution has gradually begun to relinquish military operations against Israel. This is a retreat -- was the Palestinian revolution created to remain in exile or to liberate the land?

Abu Iyad: This question is to a certain extent linked to the first question. If we were to ask what are the most important objectives of Israel's big campaign to frighten the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement with a wide-scale Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon, Israel would answer that any operation that is carried out in the occupied territories, whether it originates from within the occupied territories or from Jordan or Syria, would mean a battle with the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces. They believe the Palestinian resistance is "afraid" of a military action. I emphasize through AL-ITTIHAD that this does not frighten us and the operations program will continue as scheduled. Resistance to occupation is a legitimate right in which there can be no wavering or ambiguity. [last two sentences printed in boldface]

Our commitment not to carry out operations from Lebanese territory has existed for a long time. It is a commitment that results from the weakness of the Arab stand which until now has been unable to embark on a genuine confrontation of Israel. Hence we cannot let Lebanon alone bear all the consequences. Therefore, on this basis we exclude Lebanon [as a springboard for operations]. As for the other fronts, there has been no change in our operations program. Israel will not intimidate us. Although we are a refugee people, we will not be a refugee revolution. Our fighters possess weapons here to defend the refugee camps. We are not an army that wants to consolidate its presence in this region.

I stress once again that there has been no change whatsoever in the operations program, and there can be no such change in the future. Otherwise, what is the justification for the existence of the Palestinian revolution?

AL-ITTIHAD: Relations between Syria and the Palestinian resistance have been fluctuating. What are the points of convergence and divergence? What are the reasons for the differences that emerge every now and then?

Abu Iyad: Truly, the differences between us and Syria are exaggerated. What happens sometimes is that there are differences over a specific issue or a specific point. But these are all details. The fundamental relationship is based on resistance to the Camp David policy and any occupation of southern Lebanon and Israeli aggression, confrontation of Israel and preservation of Lebanon's unity and Arabism. All these are joint stands, and constitute a common trench. The differences are over details -- for instance over a political issue or political action. Such differences are legitimate. Differences often appear between members of the same party or organization. However, I emphasize that the relationship between Syria and Palestine is one of destiny. We are about to embark on an open dialogue with the Syrian leadership and all Syrian leaders. I hope this dialogue will yield good results.

AL-ITTIHAD: We have read more than one statement by officials in the field that a series of assassinations of some political leaders is imminent. The chain of explosions has returned to what it was before. How do you view the future of the security situation?

Abu Iyad: Prior to the recent aggression against southern Lebanon or the possibility of an aggression against southern Lebanon, there was a wave of Israeli statements saying that an aggression would take place. We all remember the 15-day battle, during which a cease-fire was arranged. For the first time Israel tried to make world public opinion believe it did not conclude a cease-fire with the fedayeen but with the Lebanese Government. Immediately after, the series of explosions began.

As long as the aggression against southern Lebanon does not begin, the explosions will continue. This does not mean it is Israel alone that is carrying out these explosions. It is regrettable to say that some Arab differences are reflected unethically in the Lebanese arena in the form of explosions. I am sure all those who carry out the explosions are on the same side as Israel because their target is the security of citizens and because they blow up innocent people who have nothing to do with what is happening in Lebanon. Hence, such cowardly action is an Israeli plan that always surfaces following an aggression or when the possibility of an aggression exists. What is more serious is that Israel is trying to inflame the situation in all of Lebanon. I believe any future battle with Israel will not be confined to southern Lebanon but will include Ad-Damur and other areas. It is said that Bashir al-Jumayyil sent more than 1,000 men to Israel to hold joint exercises to seize Ad-Damur and other positions on the coast. We do not rule out this possibility. The bad Arab situation encourages Israel and those who collaborate with it to carry out such actions. However, we are confident the Arab situation will change in the future.

AL-ITTIHAD: Was the recent dialogue between Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum and Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil during the Arab Parliamentary Union conference in Kuwait -- which has brought about negative reactions from Lebanese and Palestinian parties -- held in coordination with the PLO leadership or was it merely an individual initiative?

Abu Iyad: I believe it was an individual initiative. As for the negative reactions, I believe Amin al-Jumayyil is saying good things. A person who lives through war and learns from it is more courageous than he who persists in his attitude and fails to appraise the past stage positively or negatively.

Amin al-Jumayyil has learned from past experiences and tried to separate from his brother [Bashir] and his party. One can say there is a significant trend in the Phalangist Party that believes in what Amin al-Jumayyil says. When Shaykh Amin says, I am opposed to dealing with Israel, and I am for an understanding with the Palestinians and Syrians and that the Palestinians who numbered 200,000 at the beginning of the events in Lebanon now number 60,000, do I say to him I do not want to hear this from you? I believe that any attempt to win over your opponent is a positive attempt, and all world revolutions have reacted positively toward such attempts. We should not turn our back to a sensible voice. We are not dealing with an Amin al-Jumayyil who is collaborating with Israel against the Palestinians and Lebanon's Arabism. I am dealing with Amin al-Jumayyil on the basis of what he says. I am confident as a result of my meeting with him 2 years ago that Amin al-Jumayyil still says the same thing and holds the same views.

It is our duty to encourage such a trend within the Phalangist Party so that it will gain the upper hand in the party and so that the fascist and isolationist trend that calls for strengthening relations with Israel will not be the dominant trend in the region.

AL-ITTIHAD: Have there been direct meetings between you and Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil?

Abu Iyad: There have not been direct meetings between us for a long time. However, indirect meetings have taken place through mutual friends and through people who are striving to develop this trend within the Phalangist Party.

AL-ITTIHAD: Are there broad lines within whose framework this dialogue is taking place?

Abu Iyad: No, all that is taking place is just discussions. Talking with Amin is good. In order for any discussion to succeed and gain momentum it should be held with the Lebanese National Movement, and the Palestinians should encourage such a dialogue so it will not be at the Lebanese National Movement's expense.

AL-ITTIHAD: There are conflicting opinions on As-Sadat's successor, President Husni Mubarak, and the current role of Egypt. What is your view of Mubarak's domestic and foreign policy, particularly regarding the Palestinian cause?

Abu Iyad: It is difficult to positively or negatively judge Husni Mubarak right now. I am against attaching great importance to him and against calling him more than what he really is. I am against saying that he will work miracles after As-Sadat's assassination. It was natural for him to open his doors to domestic opposition and give Egyptians some freedom. All things are positive. However, we still have a problem. Is it a question of As-Sadat personally or of Camp David and the Sinai agreement? This is our problem. Our attack against As-Sadat was an attack against the course of Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, which were made at the expense of the Palestinian people. The question is what is Mubarak's stand on this matter? Up to now he has been pursuing the same course. Therefore, I cannot glorify his domestic policy over his foreign policy. Of course, this may be possible after April. All these matters should be judged objectively once they have occurred. At present, however, Mubarak is pursuing the same course.

AL-ITTIHAD: At the outset of the Iraqi-Iranian war the [Palestinian] resistance played a positive role in attempting to settle the conflict. However, this role disappeared all too soon and the war continued. Does the resistance have any plans to try to end this war?

Abu Iyad: Unfortunately, any mediator needs the approval of both parties. It happened that Iraq approved the mediation, but Iran refused it because this war is controlled by difficult factors. Therefore, we did not see a promising end in sight. The Iranians believe their land is occupied and cannot negotiate because of this occupation. The Iraqis have entered into the war and are unwilling to withdraw without a political gain. These factors make a settlement difficult to reach.

Hence, Brother Abu 'Ammar's attempts to mediate were doomed to failure. At the moment, the Islamic Good Offices Committee will most likely resume its activity and it might reach a solution, despite the losses both parties have sustained.

AL-ITTIHAD: International trends calling for a U.S.-PLO dialogue have emerged. Do you see any real possibility of starting a such a dialogue?

Abu Iyad: I say the U.S. policy toward the Palestinian people is hostile and does not recognize their right to return and self-determination. For instance, the United States has made the recognition of Israel the condition for starting a dialogue. If the recognition of Israel is the price for starting a dialogue with the United States, what will be the price for a Palestinian state? It is not a matter of a dialogue with the United States or anyone else. The cause is ours. It is important for us to hold talks with everyone. However, it is preposterous for anyone to ask you to pay a high price for his holding talks.

Anyhow, the Americans have given all of their support to Israel, and the United States will suffer evil consequences for its policy, if not now, in the future. We will not accept the U.S. conditions for a dialogue.

AL-ITTIHAD: During the past years there has been increasing controversy over the establishment of the Palestinian state. You were one of those who spoke about its birth. Where is the Palestinian state now?

Abu Iyad: I have never seen it close but it is natural for one to be optimistic. The Palestinian state is preceded by fierce fighting. But it will eventually become a reality. It is the hope of every Palestinian and every revolutionary. This hope will never be fulfilled if one is desperate. Today it is not necessary to state the date but I believe there will be a day when the Palestinian people will have a state.

AL-ITTIHAD: It was said that the [psotponement of the] meeting of the small committee in charge of establishing a strategy for the south was caused by the Palestinian resistance. Is this true and what is your opinion about the postponement of the conference?

Abu Iyad: On the contrary, the resistance stressed the necessity of resuming the meetings but the postponement of the meeting was demanded by other countries. The Palestinians had nothing to do with the postponement. Brother Abu al-Lutf insisted that the meeting be held as scheduled, but the opposite occurred.

AL-ITTIHAD: Weinberger's visit was accompanied by an Israeli row over his statement about arming Jordan. The question is: What has become of Palestinian-Jordanian relations and what is your opinion about the Israeli row on this issue?

Abu Iyad: Israel has accustomed us to such things. I do not believe Israel is scared because Jordan will be armed. Earlier, there was a fow over the AWACS. As the AWACS row died down I expect the same to happen with this.

Concerning Jordanian-Palestinian relations, in my opinion there are none. There is only cooperation in distributing the steadfastness money to our people in the occupied territory through a joint committee. As far as normal relations are concerned, it is the Jordanian side that refuses such relations and not the Palestinian side because under normal relations it is unfair for southern Lebanon to bear a heavy Palestinian presence while Jordan refuses to bear responsibility for commando operations carried out from its territory. As we ask Lebanon, we ask Jordan to bear part of our presence. I demand that all fronts be opened so that everyone bears with us responsibility for the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

AL-ITTIHAD: Do you believe the recent clashes that took place in the south were accidental or were they motivated by certain intentions in this highly sensitive region and at this time in particular?

Abu Iyad: There is no doubt there are within the Amal movement and the National Movement some elements who are overwhelmed with the feeling of suppression and discrimination. Such feelings provoke recklessness despite the fact that the essence of the movement and its pact stress support for the Palestinian question and the Palestinian revolution.

In my opinion the clashes that took place were provoked by dissidents of the Amal movement and the National Movement. It is true that the clashes were followed by bitter reactions and irresponsible behavior. Nevertheless they continue to be provoked. Thus we rapidly called the supreme coordination committee to convene. The meeting was attended by Brother Nabih Barri, Brother Abu 'Ammar and representatives of the National Movement. In the presence of the entire command of the south (Amal, the National Movement and the resistance) we handed over responsibility for national security in the south to the National Movement and Amal in order to free ourselves for the task of confronting the Zionist enemy.

AL-ITTIHAD: The issue of dividing Lebanon has been raised once more and certain informed political circles have begun to say that Kissinger's plan has been revived and that the Palestinians will be settled in southern Lebanon. What is your comment?

Abu Iyad: This is an old story; if the Palestinians wanted to settle in Lebanon they would not have carried arms. We have tried to deny and refute this rumor but it keeps reappearing. Concerning the division issue and what is being said about it, these are not serious concepts. Even if there are those who uphold such concepts, is there a single human who agrees to divide his own body?

PALESTINIANS, SYRIA TO DEVELOP NEW STRATEGY

LD051529 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 3 Mar 82 pp 1, 12

[Unattributed report: "Syrian-Palestinian Talks To Resume Today; Preparing Work Paper for Joint Plan Between Syria, Resistance and Nationalist Movement"]

[Excerpts] AS-SAFIR has learned from Palestinian sources that the Syrian-Palestinian talks will be resumed in Damascus today to formulate the ideas discussed in the two previous rounds of talks into a working paper that would be the basis for Syrian-Palestinian strategy for dealing with the expected developments in the Palestinian and Syrian fields.

The talks in question began last Saturday under the chairmanship of Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad).

Official Palestinian sources characterized the talks in the two previous rounds as frank and serious. The situation was discussed from all its aspects and views were identical on all the issues under review. A common appraisal of the situation was reached.

The sources said that the previous two rounds of talks dwelt on the recent U.S. onslaught in the area. It was agreed that the United States is pursuing a policy aimed at reviving reactionary currents in the area, seeking to break the forces of steadfastness and confrontation in the Arab homeland, and fabricating battles between these forces in order to paralyze and confuse them.

The sources added: "There was agreement on the need to escalate resistance to Camp David with a view to aborting it, to protect the gains of the revolution in Syria and to develop the struggle of all the revolutionary forces in the Arab area."

The sources continued: "There was also agreement on the need to give the Lebanese arena greater attention and to support the Lebanese National Movement with a view to enabling it to confront attempts to fragment Lebanon and impose the fascist-Israeli plan on it."

The sources said the two previous meetings were confined to reviewing the issues without going into details and that at today's meeting and the meeting to follow, a working paper will be formulated which will be tantamount to the basis of a comprehensive Syrian-Palestinian strategy."

The sources said the Palestinian delegation, following its return to Beirut from the two previous rounds of talks, met with most of the Palestinian resistance factions as well as with representatives of the Lebanese National Movement and acquainted them with what went on during the talks.

The sources said that at the end of the current talks it is planned to form a Palestinian delegation consisting of the general secretaries of the resistance factions headed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to go to Syria and review the agreement reached so far with the Syrian leadership headed by President Hafiz al-Asad.

The sources said it is also intended that the new strategy should include the Lebanese National Movement, so that it will be a third party in addition to Syria and the Palestinian resistance. The sources said that the new strategy will be proposed by the three parties to be adopted as the program for the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL ON ISRAELI MILITARY BUILDUP

JN090914 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Israel has called up its reservists in the armor and heavy artillery corps and massed its troops on the Israeli-Lebanese borders. Disclosing this to Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, Abu al-Hawl [Hayl 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee member, said that the Israeli buildup could be a prelude not only for attacking southern Lebanon but also for attacking Syria and Jordan.

'ARAFAT HOLDS TALKS WITH GREEK CP LEADER

NC090931 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last night received Greek Communist Party Secretary General Florakis and the delegation accompanying him. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the situation in the area in light of the suspect U.S. moves and the daily Israeli threats to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The discussions during the meeting also dealt with bilateral Palestinian-Greek relations and Greece's historic stand of supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people and the world liberation movements.

The meeting was attended by a number of leaders of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

The Lebanese Communist Party last night held a reception in honor of Comrade Florakis, who is currently visiting Lebanon at the invitation of the Lebanese Communist Party. The reception was attended by Brother Abu 'Ammar, [Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General] George Hawi and a number of leaders of the National Movement and the Palestinian revolution.

Brother Abu 'Ammar delivered a speech on the occasion, in which he said: In the name of the revolution and the people, in the name of the Palestinian revolution and the national forces, and in the name of the strugglers, we greet our comrade and friend with whom we have a common struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Brother Abu 'Ammar lauded the Greek Communist Party's solidarity with the cause of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Comrade Florakis also delivered a speech in which he emphasized his party's solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples against imperialism and Zionism.

DFLP, GREEK COMMUNISTS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

JN090835 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Beirut, 9 Mar (SANA) -- The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Greek Communist Party [KKE] have affirmed their solidarity with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, particularly Syria, in confronting imperialism, Zionism and agent reactionaries.

In a joint statement issued here yesterday, the two sides condemned the crimes and acts of sabotage which are being carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood. They expressed complete confidence in the inevitable victory of the Palestinian people in their struggle to wrest their rights to return to their homeland, to determine their future and build their independent state under the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah today received the KKE delegation led by Comrade Florakis. The DFLP Politburo members attended the meeting.

MORE ON FATAH'S 'ABD AL-HAMID RALLY SPEECH

NC051303 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1135 GMT 5 Mar 82

[From "With the Events" feature]

[Excerpt] Brothers: A mass rally was held yesterday at the Law Faculty of the Lebanese University in solidarity with Egyptian Arab struggler Khalid al-Islambuli and his comrades. Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], member of Fatah Central Committee, delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian revolution at the rally. He lauded the departed Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, discussed the traitorous role played by Anwar as-Sadat and his capitulationist policy against Egypt, the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation and then spoke about Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's era. He said:

[Begin recording] Brothers: Husni Mubarak then came. Husni Mubarak is now trying to be fair to everyone. He is trying to (?blacken) the face of the Arab nation and the face of the Egyptian people but in a clever manner.

From here, we tell Husni Mubarak that we did not fight As-Sadat because he was Anwar as-Sadat but we, the masses -- whether we are Egyptians, Lebanese, Palestinians or Arabs throughout the world -- say that we fought the course of traitor As-Sadat. No trick [words indistinct] can deceive us. We say Husni Mubarak has one of two choices: Either end As-Sadat's course or declare he is actually following As-Sadat's path. These are basic matters which must be made clear to us in a (?serious) manner.

The United States is planning to seize this area; the United States is the one which is supplying our Zionist enemy with everything it needs -- from the loaf of bread to planes. We cannot possibly expect anything from the United States. The trick of settlements cannot deceive us. There are no settlements during this phase because all the proposed settlements are in the pattern of Camp David and autonomy. These do not deceive us. Therefore, we are required to (?clearly state) what our stand is toward the United States, the enemy of the Arabs and friend of Zionism. What is our attitude and what is our relationship? How can we restore a strategic balance without establishing a genuine alliance with the Soviet Union? How can we, brothers, irrespective of whatever the views are? We say that it is in our interest to establish this balance. You are aware of the plan aimed at the whole Arab nation.

Brothers, Israel has not, and will not, abandon its historic dream of establishing the State of Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile. Zionism has ambitions and America has ambitions. There is an integrated plan between these two. We feel and are experiencing this plan.

Brothers, what is the aim behind the denominational war, racial war or geographical war that is now (?taking place) other than the Balkanization of this area, other than the creation of weak states that will be unable to do anything vis-a-vis the U.S.-Zionist plan that is prepared for our Arab area?

Brothers, as we stand today to speak either about unity or about Khalid al-Islambuli, it is not enough for us to raise slogans. Rather, we are required to translate our beliefs into principles. We are required to stand strongly and firmly on the side of the Egyptian people and the Egyptian national movement. [applause]

As for Khalid al-Islambuli, if he is destined to die as a martyr, he will be the martyr of the Arab nation. [applause] But if he continues to live, I am confident he and his comrades will die as martyrs in one of our immortal battles against the Zionist enemy. May peace and God's mercy be upon you. [end recording]

LIBYA AGREES TO TUNISIA'S OAPEC MEMBERSHIP

GF041325 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Doha, 4 Mar (QNA) -- Press reports here today indicated that Libya has officially agreed to drop its objection to Tunisia's membership in OAPEC.

The Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH said Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, who is currently visiting Doha, was informed of the new Libyan stand by Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, the OAPEC secretary general, during a brief meeting between the two men.

The newspaper added that Dr 'Atiqah, who is currently visiting Doha to participate in the eighth Arab energy conference to begin on 6 March, expects a separate meeting to be held during the conference to deal with the matter.

OAPEC Approves Membership

GF061845 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] The OAPEC ministerial council held a meeting this afternoon during which Tunisia's membership in OAPEC was approved. Belkacem Nabi, Algerian energy and petrochemical industries minister and chairman of the ministerial council, expressed congratulations to Mahmoud al-Mestiri, Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs, hoping that Tunisia's membership will support joint Arab action.

This meeting of OAPEC is regarded as a continuation of the ministerial meeting held in Abu Dhabi in December.

Following the meeting, 'Ali Atiqah, the secretary general of OAPEC, made a press statement. He said that the council had unanimously approved Tunisia's membership. The next meeting of OAPEC will be held in Tunis in June. He added that the budget of OAPEC, the judicial committee and the training institute for 1982 were also approved. He pointed out that the council postponed discussion of other issues until the next meeting.

Mahmoud al-Mestiri told QNA about his pleasure over the council's approval of his country's membership in OAPEC. He hoped Tunisia would be up to the expectations of the member countries and said it would participate in the joint Arab efforts in the field of petroleum, which he described as a sensitive field for all Arab countries and the Arab economy.

GULF AFFAIRSGCC BEGINS SECOND WORKING SESSION 8 MAR

LD080758 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0742 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA) -- The Gulf Cooperation Council began its second working session at 1015 today under the chairmanship of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The member countries' foreign ministers and the council's secretary general, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bisharah, are attending.

Shaykh Bisharah said in a statement to SPA that at today's session the council will complete discussion of political issues pertaining to the Gulf, Arab and international fields as well as the latest political developments that have taken place since the council's extraordinary session in Bahrain last month.

He added that the council will also discuss its agenda. He also said that he and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will hold a news conference at the end of the meeting.

Session Ends

LD081158 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA) -- The second working session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council ended at 1400 this afternoon.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, said that political matters on the agenda were discussed during the meeting, and added that the Ministerial Council will hold meetings at 1700 this evening to discuss the other items on the agenda, including economic matters.

Bahrain-Qatar Dispute

LD081750 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1436 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA) -- The third working session of the GCC started at 1700. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal announced at the end of the third session that the GCC is to meet again tonight to complete the debates on the rest of the agenda items, especially those connected with economic questions. He said that the debates on many of the subjects on this session's agenda have been completed, especially political questions, particularly the situation between Bahrain and Qatar. He mentioned that the appropriate decision to restore matters to normal had been made.

Prince Sa'ud expressed his satisfaction with what had been achieved on this issue, namely that this dispute is to take the constitutional course agreed on within the GCC framework and that the GCC is to be given the opportunity to look into this matter. He made it clear that the two countries have agreed to this and considered the dispute to be a mere summer cloud that has vanished.

CORRECTION TO GCC SECRETARY ON GULF AFFAIRS

The following correction should be made to the item entitled "GCC Secretary General on Gulf Affairs" published in the 8 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on page C 2: paragraph eight, line five should read: "for the transport, communications and housing ministers" substituting the word "communications" for "transportation."

BAHRAINHEIR APPARENT ON BAHRAINI-QATARI CRISIS

GF071813 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Mar 82 pp 1, 21

[Text] The visit that Qatari Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani was supposed to make to Bahrain today had been postponed. The postponement was caused by the new "Hawar" crisis between Bahrain and Qatar. The crisis came about after Bahrain named one of its naval ships "Hawar." This was denounced by Qatar, which issued a statement explaining the old dispute between the two countries over the Hawar Islands, which have been the source of their dispute for some years.

A Bahraini official who visited Kuwait for several hours yesterday said that the Qatari heir apparent's visit to Bahrain was decided on and scheduled earlier but that the new crisis between the two countries caused the postponement of the visit.

The Bahraini official stated that Bahraini Industry and Development Minister Yusuf ash-Shirawi will not take part in the second Arab energy conference, which will begin its meetings in Doha today, because of the crisis in Bahraini-Qatari relations.

The Bahraini official disclosed that there was a ship named "Hawar" in Bahrain for years and that it belonged to the Bahraini police as part of the coast guard fleet. He added that this was a large boat that carried out reconnaissance and security missions in Bahraini territorial waters. The official explained that the new naval ship replaced this old boat.

At the conclusion of his statement, the Bahraini official expected that the issue of this new-old crisis in Bahraini-Qatari relations over the Hawar Islands will be raised during the GCC foreign ministers meetings that will be held in Riyadh on Sunday.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL VISITS COUNTRY

GF081418 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received Nicholas Veliotos, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and the accompanying delegation in his office at Government House at 1000 today.

The U.S. official greeted the amir on the occasion of his visit to Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, Peter Sutherland.

Departs for Saudi Arabia

GF081825 Manama Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar

[Excerpt] Nicholas Veliotos, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, left Bahrain for Saudi Arabia today following a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of area countries.

The U.S. official was seen off at the airport by Ghazi al-Qusaybi, director of administrative, financial and consular affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and the U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

KUWAITOFFICIAL ON BAHRAIN-QATARI DISPUTE, POW'S

GF081736 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Mar 82 p 3

[Excerpt] In the first official comment on the dispute that started some days ago between Qatar and Bahrain over Hawar Island, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn told AS-SIYASAH yesterday that what may seem to be a difference in view between the two GCC states can be settled through fraternal contacts and dialogues. He added that a form of suitable solutions can be achieved in order to please all parties concerned, preserve the cohesion of the joint Gulf action and at the same time confirm the strong and close ties that are above secondary disputes.

The information received by AS-SIYASAH indicates that tense and rapid contacts began among GCC states' capitals a few hours after the dispute arose. Diplomatic circles in the region expect this issue to be discussed during the meetings of the GCC foreign ministers which will begin in Riyadh today.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn explained in his statement the nature of the efforts made by Kuwaiti diplomacy at the present time in order to facilitate the exchange of the families of the Iraqi-Iranian POW's. He said the Kuwaiti efforts stem from fraternal and humane principles that link us with the region's states. Thus, he added, Kuwait welcomed these proposals the first time they were made and agreed to make Kuwaiti territory a symbol for this humane action in order for Iraqi and Iranian families to meet and then be transferred to Baghdad and Tehran accordingly.

The minister of state indicated that as soon as the two countries agreed on the proposals concerning the family exchange, Kuwait formed a committee headed by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid in order to suggest the appropriate system and define Kuwait's assisting role in the implementation of these proposals in cooperation with the International Red Cross Committee and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Association. He added that this joint committee met several times, exchanged information between Baghdad and Tehran and informed the two capitals of its latest findings.

The minister of state was asked about the day the exchange of families would take place. He said that no date had yet been set. However, he added, the efforts that have so far been made indicated that the activities of the committee are proceeding well. He added that the time will be left up to the two concerned parties to specify depending on the results achieved by their committees handling this issue.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn expressed Kuwait's hope that these steps would be the start that would help reduce tension between Baghdad and Tehran and put an end to the war between the two countries.

The minister of state was also asked about the reports saying that U.S. President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib may visit Kuwait as part of a Gulf tour he intends to make. He explained that no contacts whatsoever have so far been made with the U.S. envoy on such a visit to Kuwait.

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES 8 MARCH

LD080836 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Mar (KUNA) -- Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali arrived here today on the fifth and last leg of his Gulf tour. He has already been to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE.

Prime Minister and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah headed those who welcomed the Tunisian prime minister upon arrival.

Discussions between the two prime ministers are expected to cover bilateral economic relations, the Arab situation, the Palestine question, the Middle East and other matters of common interest.

Meets With Amir

LD081344 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] His highness the amir of Kuwait received at 1130 this morning his excellency the Tunisian prime minister, Mohamed Mzali, and the accompanying delegation of the occasion of their visit to the country. Present at the meeting was the head of the mission of honor, Health Minister Dr Abderrahman Abdallah al-Awadi.

PLO'S SALAH KHALAF ARRIVES ON VISIT 8 MAR

LD090804 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Mar (KUNA) -- Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, arrived here last night. No immediate information is available concerning the nature and purpose of the visit or whether he will meet with any Kuwaiti officials during his visit.

CORRECTION TO OFFICIAL ON MITTERRAND'S VISIT

The following correction should be made to the item entitled "Official Assesses Mitterrand's Visit to Israel" published in the 8 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on page C 5: paragraph five should read: He added that during his visit, "President Mitterrand ignored the historic facts and the disregarded legal and human rights of the Palestinian people outside and within the occupied territory in order to admire what the occupiers have built on the ruins of justice and through the material and moral support of the West."

SAUDI ARABIARIYADH ANNOUNCES IRANIAN PILOT'S DEFECTION

LD082110 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Statement issued by the Defense and Aviation Ministry]

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA) -- On the morning of Thursday, 4 March, an Iranian Phantom military aircraft approached Saudi airspace. It was detected by Saudi radar, which monitored its movement. A number of Saudi military aircraft prevented it from entering Saudi airspace. When our aircraft approached the Iranian aircraft, its pilot expressed the desire to land at a Saudi airfield. He was allowed to land at a Saudi military base. The authorities have commenced investigations.

The Iranian Embassy in the kingdom has been informed of the incident.

SAUDI-SENEGALESE TALKS OPEN IN RIYADH 8 MARCH

LD081404 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA) -- HM King Khalid and President Abdou Diouf today cochaired here the opening round of Saudi-Senegalese official talks, focussing on means of enhancing bilateral relations and reviewing the issues of mutual interest to the two countries.

The kingdom's delegation included Crown Prince Fahd, the deputy premier; Prince 'Abdallah, the second deputy premier and commander of National Guard; Prince Sultan, defense and aviation minister; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, finance and national economy minister; Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abd al-Wasi; pilgrimage and endowments minister; Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, industry and electricity minister; kingdom's ambassador to Senegal, Shaykh Abbas Ghazawi. [name as received]

The Senegalese side was represented by External Affairs Minister Mr Moustapha Niasse, Minister of Finance and Economy Mr Ousmane Seck, Planning and Cooperation Minister Mr Mamadou Toure, Presidential Adviser Moustapha Sesi and the deputy speaker of the Senegal's General Assembly.

SPA learned the talks have centered on issues of mutual interest in particular and Islamic and African issues in general.

The two sides have stressed their concern on promoting bilateral relations and continuation of their joint efforts for serving the Afro-Islamic nation and preserving justice and peace in the region and the world at large.

Press Conference

LD081818 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1434 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA) -- Senegalese President Abdou Diouf has affirmed his country's absolute support for the Arab peace plan which was submitted by the kingdom to achieve peace in the Middle East and which the majority of the Arab countries have accepted. President Diouf discounted completely the idea of restoring diplomatic relations between Senegal and the Zionist enemy and state it was out of the question. He said it will be impossible to reconsider it unless Israel fulfills the conditions laid down by the African countries. This includes withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and recognition of legitimate Palestinian rights, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

In a press conference this afternoon at the palace of conferences, the Senegalese president said there is exaggeration in the talk about relations between Israel and the African countries being restored to their previous state. He warned against being led by this exaggeration. Even if some of it is true, he said that no doubt this is limited to a very few African countries.

Concerning his current talks in the kingdom, the president said the talks covered a small part of the bilateral relations, because they are extremely good. He praised the huge assistance provided by the kingdom for development projects in Senegal and the regional projects in which Senegal participates, such as the Senegal River project in which Mauritania and Mali are also participating. He expressed hope that talks between the two delegations will result in more cooperation between the two countries, including providing Senegal with Saudi oil and exporting agricultural products, foodstuffs, cattle and fish from Senegal to the kingdom.

Concerning recent differences at the African summit over the Western Sahara issue, the Senegalese president explained that his country is among the 19 countries which rejected the measure pertaining to the recognition of the Saharan Republic, regarding it as contravening the principles laid by the OAU and completely contrary to [words indistinct]. He stressed the general eagerness to maintain the unity of the organization and its rejection of any measure which will divide the African ranks and be a source of discord. He expressed his belief that the chairman of the African organization will spare no efforts to consolidate African ranks and restore unity to the organization by repealing the measure taken by the General Secretariat in Addis Ababa. He noted that Senegal will naturally and wholeheartedly support such efforts. He said that he did not want to pass judgment, alone, on the responsibility of the OAU secretary general regarding what happened. However, he referred to the fact that his country had not put its trust in the person of the secretary general of the organization when he was elected that post. Regarding the issue of Chad, and the current situation there, the president stressed the OAU's interest in it and referred to the efforts exerted by the committee set up by the organization to search for a solution. He noted that Senegal approved the resolutions on Chad adopted by this committee in its last meeting in Nairobi. He declared support for the current government in Chad as a legitimate government. He said it should shoulder its responsibilities and negotiate with others in order to reach a peaceful solution that will satisfy everyone because a military solution is rejected, in order that the Chadian people will be able to live in peace, work for the development of their country and improve their conditions.

He described his talks as constructive and positive and said that the two delegations' views were identical regarding the issues of mutual interest touched upon during the talks.

Visit Concludes

LD081824 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA) -- His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of Senegal, today left Riyadh at the end of an official visit to the kingdom that began yesterday.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, headed those who saw the president off at the airport.

PAPERS COMMENT ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTION CUT

LD071612 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Mar (SPA) -- The kingdom's wise decision to cut its oil production ceiling to 7.5 million barrels per day and the useful efforts initiated by the Islamic goodwill mission to bring peace between Iraq and Iran and today's GCC foreign ministers meeting here figured for editorial comments in today's newspapers.

Dealing with the kingdom's lowering of oil production to 7.5 million BPD [barrels per day] 'UKAZ said the decision was the outcome of Riyadh's consultations with its brotherly nations in the Gulf region, "reflecting the kingdom's collective stance and the necessity to preserve the unity of OPEC member states." The paper stressed the decision also highlighted the need for sticking to OPEC's fixed prices so as to preserve the cartel's pricing structure and unity.

AL-MADINAH deplored the actions of some countries who have spoiled the respect of OPEC in the international community owing to their reckless behaviour.

The paper felt these countries have failed to understand properly the international economic process due to their shortsightedness and lack of knowledge of the world's energy requirements. It is gratifying to note, the paper observed, that those nations have started realizing the kingdom's farsightedness and rational policy to preserve the interests of OPEC states and keep the international economic system away from confusion.

AR-RIYAD in its editorial "Storms Shake OPEC Caravan" noted "The game of oil pricing remains one of the most important factors for the international economy. Price speculations in free and black markets are attempts by big powers to strike at the OPEC for depriving the strong cartel to exert any influence on oil policy or exercise any command on oil products and its prices. Some OPEC members have fallen in the trap of this game by their wrong assumptions that they will benefit from the price speculations. As such they have been openly misled and had worked against the commitments and resolutions of the OPEC."

The paper described the kingdom's decision to curtail oil production as basically aiming at encircling the crisis and providing other oil producing nations faced with a fall in demand for their oil in the markets to reconsider their policy and help in preventing any collapse of OPEC pricing structure.

AR-RIYAD stressed the kingdom's oil policy is aimed at coordination with other partners in OPEC and promotion of an integrated policy in the international market for overcoming any speculations, differences or crisis and preserving an independent policy, free from any political and economic auctions.

Meanwhile, AL-BILAD welcomed the positive indications emerging from the Islamic goodwill mission's meetings in Jidda for arriving at a suitable formula to settle the dispute between Iraq and Iran, stopping bloodshed and removing all elements of danger threatening or exhausting Muslim nation's potentials and strengths.

UAEZAYID RECEIVES U.S. OFFICIAL VELIOTES FOR TALKS

GF061445 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] During his meeting with Nicholas Veliotes, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, in Al-Batin Palace today, President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan called upon the United States to understand the justice of the Palestinian question and act in order to enable the Palestinian people to obtain their rights and establish their independent state on their own soil. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces, and Surur ibn Muhammad, director of the president's office.

The president reaffirmed that the Palestinian question is the Arabs' principal issue. He said the United States should make an effort to resolve it as soon as possible. He said any delay in resolving this question will cause instability in the region. He also said that a delay in resolving the question increases instability in the Middle East. He said peace will not be achieved so long as Israel continues to occupy Arab territories and continues its violations against southern Lebanon.

WAM has learned that during this meeting the president and the U.S. official discussed bilateral relations, the Gulf situation, current Arab developments and the continuing Israel aggression against the occupied territories in addition to international issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Patrick Theros, U.S. charge d'affaires in the UAE.

TUNISIA'S PRIME MINISTER MZALI ARRIVES 6 MAR

GF060953 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Mar (WAKH) -- Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali arrived in Abu Dhabi from Manama today on a 3-day official visit to the UAE as part of a tour of Gulf countries which has already taken him to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain.

He was received on arrival by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister, Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the president's representative; Sa'idi Salman, minister of education and youth; and a number of UAE ministers and officials.

The Tunisian prime minister is accompanied by a large delegation consisting of Mansour Moalla, minister of planning and finance; Bechir Ben Slama, minister of cultures and a number of officials from the Foreign, Information, Culture, Planning and Finance, and Economic and Commerce ministries.

Meets With Zayid

GF061956 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1725 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Mar (WAM) -- President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali in Al-Batin Palace this evening. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad and a number of ministers and officials from both the UAE and Tunisia. The president then held a private meeting with the Tunisian prime minister, who stated afterward that he had delivered a message to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on bilateral relations.

The Tunisian prime minister said he felt that the president showed understanding and readiness to support cooperation between the two countries. He explained that his talks with the president dealt with means to bolster bilateral relations and joint cooperation in the political and economic fields. WAM has learned that Mohamed Mzali briefed the president on Tunisia's view regarding current Gulf and Arab developments and means to achieve Arab solidarity. Meanwhile, the president's representative, Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, met with Tunisian Planning and Finance Minister Mansour Moalla as part of the Tunisian delegation's talks with senior officials.

Talks Begin 7 Mar

GF071100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Mar (WAKH) -- Talks began in Abu Dhabi this morning between Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister, and Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

The talks were attended on the UAE side by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid, minister of information and culture; Sa'id Slaman, minister of education and youth; Sa'id Chabbash, minister of planning; and Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of foreign affairs.

On the Tunisian side, the talks were attended by Mansour Moalla, minister of planning and finance; Bechir Ben Slama, minister of culture; and Mohsen Frini, the Tunisian ambassador to the UAE.

Mzali Press Conference

GF072042 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 7 Mar (WAKH) -- Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali stressed that the results of his visit to the UAE have been fruitful and successful and that relations between the two countries will enter a new era. He said in a press conference held here today that his meetings with UAE officials have proved that stands, views and analysis of all the issues discussed were identical, whether on issues pertaining to the current Arab situation or bilateral relations and the means to develop them.

Referring to the Fes summit, Mr Mzali said: "There are many challenges facing our Arab nation due to the current deterioration of the Arab situation, which is more apparent now than ever before. We will rely, however, on the wisdom of Arab kings and presidents in order to bypass these shortcomings and in order to make the Fes summit successful." He added that the first part of his current tour which included Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain was positive and that he felt that officials were anxious to agree on a minimum of principles that would guarantee the success of the next Fes summit.

Mr Mzali reiterated his country's support for the establishment of the GCC and said: "The Gulf states have preceded the Arab Maghreb states in the achievement of integration. We in the Arab Maghreb are seeking to achieve a similar union because we believe in integration and hate fragmentation." He expressed satisfaction over Tunisia's membership in OAPEC and said: "We believe in the necessity of Tunisia's presence in any Arab entity in order to contribute to the joint Arab action." Mr Mzali stressed that his country grants Arab investment guarantees as well as stability. He noted that the joint Arab investments between Tunis and Kuwait, Algeria, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are successful Arab investments.

With regard to the recent visit of Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to Tunis, he said that the visit opened a new period in the fraternal and good neighborly relations between the two countries. He stressed that it was agreed during the visit to initiate commercial and economic exchange and to establish joint projects as well as to integrate and coordinate press and foreign policies. He added that it was agreed to remove the restrictions on visas between the two countries so that such visas could be granted at the borders in order to facilitate the travel of Tunisian workers to Libya.

He denied that Libya had previously objected to Tunisia's membership in OAPEC. He said, however: "Libya had only demanded time to discuss the issue." He stressed that there is no longer a dispute between his country and Libya over the continental shelf because Tunisia has accepted the judgment of the International Court of Justice.

Minutes Signed 8 Mar

GF081242 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Mar (WAKH) -- This morning Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad and Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali signed the minutes of the official UAE-Tunisian talks. 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarawan, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, who attended the signing ceremony, stated that the minutes affirmed the significance of developing bilateral relations and joint action to clear the Arab air and achieve Arab solidarity.

The under secretary said the talks included a comprehensive review of bilateral cooperation in the commercial, information and cultural fields and that the Tunisian side discussed the possibility of the UAE's participation in the sixth development plan in Tunisia. He added that the UAE has shown understanding of the wise development policy of the Tunisian Government, and has shown readiness to participate in Tunisia's plans for the welfare of both countries' peoples.

Al-Jarawan stated that Mohamed Mzali expressed his satisfaction over the results of his visit, and expressed his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality he received during his visit, affirming that this visit will result in strengthening and developing bilateral relations. Mr Mzali left Abu Dhabi today for Kuwait where he will end his tour of a number of countries of the region.

TWO ACQUITTED IN AS-SADAT CASE ARRESTED

NC090737 Cairo MENA in English 0700 GMT 9 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA) -- The two defendants in the As-Sadat assassination case who were acquitted by the Higher Military Court, Dr 'Umar 'Abd ar-Rahman and Sayyid as-Salamuni, were arrested yesterday on orders of the state security prosecution authorities for implication in another terrorist organization, Al-Jihad. Indictments will promptly be issued against that organization's 200 leaders and 700 members.

OPPOSITION PARTY BACKS MUBARAK'S PROGRAMS

NC081658 Cairo MENA in English 1635 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA) -- The [Socialist] Liberal Party today re-affirmed its support for President Husni Mubarak's foreign and domestic policies and also for his recent tour of some West European states, the U.S. and Oman.

In a press conference given by leader of the opposition party Mustafa Kamil Murad, the party highlighted the president's foreign policy which stresses Egypt's keen desire to maintain her relations with the outside world, continue the peace policy and to honour the Camp David accords and the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The party also lauded the president's assertion that Egypt welcomes the closing of Arab ranks.

The party underlined its backing to the government's statement and the economic conference, to which all the opposition parties contributed.

Murad said that the [socialist] Liberal Party was planning to launch a drive after the Israeli full pull out from the Sinai.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS POLICY STATEMENT

NC061742 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] The special committee set up by the People's Assembly to reply to the government policy statement -- which was delivered by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhiy ad-Din before the People's Assembly on 20 February -- affirms in its report that Egypt's option for peace was a continuous, firm strategic option stemming from the will of the people. It stresses that Egypt will march with every insistence and determination on the road to peace until a just comprehensive settlement is achieved as a final goal sought for the states and peoples in the area so they can enjoy security and stability.

The committee's report affirms that solving the Palestine problem represents the key to achieving peace and stability in the area and that this solution must be based on mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians for existence as a national entity free of domination and fear.

The committee also stresses that there can be no denial of the Palestinian people's right to exercise self-determination and calls on all the peace-loving states to seek, as Egypt has been seeking, a solution to the Palestine question and to give it priority in order to secure stability and a comprehensive peace in the area.

The committee expresses its appreciation and pride of the Egyptian negotiator's stand at the autonomy talks and Egypt's desire to achieve a real autonomy for the Palestinians that will drive the whole area to the steps of a comprehensive, lasting and just peace in the region. The committee affirms that autonomy is a transitional period to place the Palestinian people at the beginning of the road so that they can then undertake self-determination.

The report stresses that if at present there are differences between Egypt and several Arab states, these differences are among brothers and will disappear. However, this does not mean that Egypt will change its policy toward peace in the area. The committee welcomes in this respect a studied and logical restoration of the fraternal relations between Egypt and its Arab brothers without conditions. The committee also asserts that Egypt's doors are open to every Arab, so that the Arab will and voice may be unified to confront the challenges of construction and prosperity under a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

On integration between Egypt and Sudan, the committee stresses that Egypt's link with Sudan is organic and one of fate and destiny. It says that the integration between the two peoples is a deep-rooted popular move in which aspirations and feelings were unified and the blood of the sons of the Nile Valley was mixed in the battles for a common goal and destiny. The success of integration between the two fraternal countries is a historical responsibility that must be expedited and supported, and all obstacles in its way must be eliminated.

The committee records with satisfaction the achievements in the political, social, cultural and military fields and calls for expediting the implementation of the recommendations and resolutions that will achieve economic integration between Egypt and Sudan.

On Egypt's relations with Africa, the committee report affirms that Egypt's stand will always be alongside its fraternal African states, opposing foreign interference in the continent's affairs, demanding an end to racial discrimination, working to promote cooperation among the continent's states in various fields, supporting the right of the African peoples to development and progress and strengthening the OAU and its constructive role.

The committee affirms that the policy of nonalignment represents the basic pillar of Egypt's foreign policy, particularly as Egypt is a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement.

The committee supports the government's declaration that Egypt welcomes cooperation with all the states on the basis of equality and mutual respect, while rejecting at the same time to grant military bases to any foreign state, because it believes that the security of the area must stem from its states strengthening their intrinsic defense capability.

The report praises the U.S. stance and the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and stresses the importance of the United States holding a dialogue with the Palestinians and paving the way for mutual recognition between the Palestinians and Israel, this being the real and main course to complete the peace process not only for the peoples of the area but also for the entire world community.

The committee also supports the government in encouraging a settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict through peaceful means and in urging the peace-loving states to increase their efforts in this respect, because this prolonged war has destroyed the forces of two Islamic states and has created serious implications for the security and stability of the area.

The committee praises the visits by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to the United States, some European states and the Sultanate of Oman. It also praises the achievements scored during these visits, as it became clear to the presidents and decisionmakers in the states the president visited that Egypt's leadership is committed to a firm continuous policy and that Egypt's option for peace is a firm and principled option.

The report also stresses that democracy in Egypt is a constitutional legal fact and a political, economic and social fact and that democracy is being exercised with freedom and responsibility and embodies all the view which might seem conflicting so that they may ultimately be crystallized with true vision to achieve the homeland's glory and dignity. It also stresses that democracy is the sole guarantee of achieving the progress and prosperity aspired by the people.

The committee praises in this respect the current measures and practices in the country for furthering democratic action and expresses its pride in the principles outlined by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the practices and traditions he has implemented as an expression of some aspirations of the Egyptian citizen.

The committee expresses the desire to promote the democratic climate in practice and action by adopting further actions and by abolishing the extraordinary measures that were enforced to protect the security of the homeland and of the citizens.

The committee asks the government to speed up the settlement of the cases of the remaining detainees, because the government has affirmed several times that no person shall remain in custody if not convicted.

The committee affirms the freedom of the press and of the journalist, since the basis of this freedom is to adhere to the fundamental constituents of society, and calls for creating a free climate for its growth within the framework of constructive cooperation and objective dialogue among the state's constitutional institutions. It stresses that it is not permissible to use the press as an instrument to destroy or harm these constituents and that it is not permissible to use it as an instrument to detract from the constitutional institutions or abuse them.

The committee's report deals with the economic question and affirms its approval of the government's action to confront this question by drawing up a strategy for economic development and by achieving economic development on the bases of complete planning and priorities.

The committee asks the government to set up a national body to define the framework of the plan and its priorities for allocation of revenues to various sectors. This body, apart from the government officials, shall include experienced individuals from the private sector representing the federation of industries, the chambers of commerce and businessmen. This national body should deal with the flaw which the Egyptian economy is suffering from in the various commodity sectors, agricultures, industry, services, distribution of national income, wages and inflation as well as the flaw between wages and prices.

The committee stresses the need for increasing production and raising efficiency within the framework of a comprehensive plan and for defining a clear stand regarding the population problem, which represents a primary obstacle to the efforts for economic development in Egypt. The government and various popular and scientific establishments shall take part in solving this problem and shall assume their responsibility in light of the outcome of the plenary conference on housing and population which was called for by the president.

The committee calls on the local government departments to promote and create the appropriate climate for popular development and to prepare necessary studies for local development projects, which the citizens will be asked to contribute toward their financing and implementation.

The committee requests that a bill be drafted on organizing emigration and employment abroad for submission to the People's Assembly as soon as possible and that this bill confirm relations and ties between the emigrant and the mother state, preserving the Egyptian citizen's dignity abroad and protecting his rights.

The committee concludes its report by approving the government policy statement, noting that it aims in its entire framework at driving forward national action in fulfillment of Egypt's national, pan-Arab and African responsibilities and as a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement and in promoting construction in Egypt with democracy and rule of the law for a bright future for the Egyptian man in an era of peace.

'ALI ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES IN MAY INTERVIEW

NC072258 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2208 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has emphasized that, after April, it will be important to focus attention on the Palestinian issue, "because this issue deserves a solution. The PLO can be helpful by giving a kind of response to the solution -- a response by which the PLO will build on the autonomy agreement."

In an interview to be published in Monday's edition of the weekly newspaper MAY, Kamal Hasan 'Ali notes that in regard to the issue pending between Egypt and Israel concerning the Tabah area, and in case an agreement is not reached, an agreement can be achieved in accordance with the provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, which has prescribed ways for ironing out differences over implementation of the treaty. Such ways, he says, can be represented by international arbitration, mediation and so on.

Concerning the subject of the Rafah area, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister adds that there is no dispute over the boundary. All that counts is to consider the most ideal method to avoid inflicting losses on the Palestinians and the Egyptians residing in the city of Rafah and to demarcate the boundary in a way that will not result in the demolition of houses or otherwise.

In answer to a question, Kamal Hasan 'Ali says that he knows nothing about a meeting having been held between two members of the U.S. National Security Council and Jewish and Palestinian personages. However, he stresses Egypt's support of the need to hold a dialogue between the U.S. administration and the Palestinians.

'ALI SAYS MFO INSTALLATIONS NEAR COMPLETION

NC081941 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said tonight that the installations pertaining to the Multinational Force [and observers, MFO] have been set up in the force's deployment area in (Al-Jurah) and Sharm ash-Shaykh.

He added that MFO vanguards will begin arriving in their positions on 17 March and that the MFO arrival will be completed on 22 March in preparation for assuming responsibilities following the Israeli withdrawal on 25 April.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM ISRAEL VISIT

NC081938 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Today, after his return to Cairo at the conclusion of his talks in Tabah [in Sinai] with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that there are no problems facing the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

He said that two main points were discussed: The first point pertains to the border in the Tabah area and the second point pertains to the border in the Rafah area and in the town of Rafah. 'Ali pointed out that there is no disagreement regarding the border established under the 1976 treaty. The differences stem from the interpretation of some technical terms and words regarding the areas of Rafah and Tabah, and these differences will be settled. 'Ali added:

[Begin recording] Actually, work is proceeding in full swing by both sides with regard to the demarcation of the border and the taking over of the southern Sinai area. There are Egyptian teams at the airports and in Sharm ash-Shaykh. Representatives of the various ministries today entered the Nuwaybi' area. Thus, the measures for the completion of the withdrawal are proceeding in full swing.

The Israeli side is also establishing the crossing points on both sides of the borderline in the Rafah area and in the area of the central road in Abu 'Uwayjilah. As we see, everything is actually proceeding according to plan and according to what was agreed upon by the higher committee and the subcommittees in their meetings during the past months. [end recording]

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that all the subjects pertaining to the problems of the withdrawal will be discussed in the meeting of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Israeli Committee on 15 March in Israel.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: EGYPT ASKS ARBITRATION ON BORDER

NC080716 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Egypt has proposed to Israel that recourse be made to international arbitration to settle their dispute on the demarcation of Egypt's international border in the Egyptian area of Tabah following failure to reach agreement bilaterally. Talks were held between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Egyptian and Israeli experts who have inspected the Egyptian borderline in the disputed areas.

MUBARAK REAFFIRMS ARAB TIES, PEACE COMMITMENT

NC080729 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has announced that Egypt's resumption of the friendly links with the Arab countries will benefit the peace process in the Middle East by pacifying any tension between the Arabs and Israel. He said that Israel's doubts regarding this issue are baseless. In an interview with U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK, Mubarak said that Egypt is an indivisible part of the Arab world and that there is no contradiction between the Egyptian-Israeli peace process and our relations with the Arabs.

President Mubarak said that the peace process will continue after the final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai in April and will lead to a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli problems. He said that the negotiations outlined in the Camp David agreements must continue to reach a declaration of principles regarding Palestinian autonomy as a step toward a comprehensive solution to the problem, to live in peace and to resist any foreign intervention. Mubarak called on Israel to show flexibility to reach an agreement on a declaration of principles before the end of the year. He said that the achievement of a reasonable agreement would constitute a good invitation to the Arabs to join the future talks to reach a permanent agreement for the Palestinians. He stressed Egypt will not make any concessions, because the issues it is negotiating do not belong to it.

GHALI STATEMENT TO MAY CONFIRMS PEACE COMMITMENT

NC072332 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2212 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that he expects a positive development to occur in the Arab stances, not only toward Egypt but also toward the peace process, among other things. He has also said that he is fully confident that the Massada complex, from which the Jewish people have been suffering since the dawn of history, will end when the Israelis realize that peace is not an impossible dream, but that it is indeed an existing reality. Furthermore, the Israelis will also realize that the success of the first phase of peace will ineluctably change the form and nature of the bond between Israel and the Jews in the Diaspora and of Zionism.

In a statement to be published in tomorrow's edition of the newspaper MAY, Dr Butrus Ghali affirms that on 27 April [as received], Egypt will say the very same things it is saying at this time. He also states that we adhere to principled stances toward numerous issues, such as Jerusalem, the settlements and the right to self-determination -- principled stances that arouse the indignation of the Israeli leadership.

But, he adds, this furnishes proof that we do not engage in deception and in maneuvering, that our stance upon the completion of the withdrawal will be the same as our stance prior to the withdrawal and that the peace process is continuing and there is nothing to arouse Israel's concern, because a comprehensive peace is in Israel's favor, just as it is in the Arab people's favor.

The minister of state for foreign affairs adds that it is imperative that Israel understand that it cannot choose the Palestinian quarter with which it will negotiate. He says that there can be no doubt that within the PLO there are patriotic leaders capable of blazing the hard trail leading to a just peace.

GHALI HEARS ROMANIAN MIDEAST CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

NC071552 Cairo MENA in English 1540 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) -- State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali discussed today with director of the Middle East Department at the Romanian Foreign Ministry the important world issues, with the Middle East in the lead.

They also discussed means of keeping the momentum of the peace process.

Dr Butrus Ghali heard the proposal by President Nicolae Ceausescu to hold a world conference to discuss the Middle East issue. Dr Ghali also expounded Egypt's drive to promote the nonaligned policy. They also dealt with bilateral ties and means of promoting them.

KUWAITI DAILY INTERVIEWS BUTRUS GHALI

GFO41930 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Mar 82 p 18

[Interview granted to AS-SIYASAH correspondent in Cairo Babakir Hasan Makki by Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs -- date not given]

[Text] Question: After President Mubarak came to power, you reiterated that Egypt's foreign policy would remain as it was during the As-Sadat era. However, detente with the Soviets, for instance, is noted. Can we apply this to Egypt's foreign policy overall?

Answer: Egyptian foreign policy is continuous because it is governed by Egypt's geographic location on one hand and the exigencies of national security on the other, in addition to an economic situation that will not change. Also President Husni Mubarak participated with the late President Anwar as-Sadat in shaping the features of Egyptian foreign policy over a period of 7 years. President Mubarak's interests virtually coincide with As-Sadat's. There is another reason: The group that worked with As-Sadat since his visit to Jerusalem in November 1977 is the same group working with President Husni Mubarak. These are some features of continuity. However, there might be a difference. It is a difference of style more than a difference of the general principles of Egyptian foreign policy.

Regarding the amelioration of relations between the Soviet Union and Egypt, it is a required phenomenon within the framework of nonaligned policy. Egypt is affiliated with the nonaligned group. Egypt laid down the features of this policy here in Cairo at the preparatory conference in June 1961. Egypt spelled out the five principles on which nonaligned policy is based. One of the requirements of this policy is a good relationship with both camps. Such a relationship is aimed at creating the desired balance between the two camps. This desired balance or balanced dimension does not necessarily mean a special relationship with either of the camps.

In the period from 1960 to 1970 there were special relations between Egypt and the socialist bloc and in the period from 1970 to 1980 there were special relations between and the Western bloc, in particular between Egypt and the United States.

So long as these special relations did not change into alignment, and so long as they conform with the principles of nonalignment, I can say that Egypt's policy has had some kind of continuity.

Question: You have announced that there are difficulties regarding the autonomy talks. The upshot of all the reports is that you have reached a deadlock. What is the way out?

Answer: No doubt, there are difficulties and it would be wrong to underestimate them. However, since there is no alternative, Egyptian diplomacy should continue these negotiations. Egyptian diplomacy should rather intensify the negotiations so that we surmount the obstacles that impeded reaching (a transitional system) and not autonomy. Here it behooves us to add that this means, according to the documents of the Egyptian stand on these negotiations, only a transitional system under Palestinian administration through which the Palestinian side could negotiate with the Israeli side. The main idea, however, is so long as the countries have not agreed on another framework, we should continue these negotiations.

Question: But these negotiations are still being conducted among Egypt, the United States and Israel. The main party of the cause, the PLO, still refuses to participate in these negotiations so long as they emanate from the Camp David accords. So what is the solution?

Answer: This is true. As we said and attempted to accomplish here in Cairo in December 1977, the PLO was sent an invitation to participate in the preparatory conference in order to prepare for the Geneva conference following As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Israel, the Soviet Union, the United States, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon were also invited. Unfortunately they apologized and did not participate in that conference, only the United States, Israel, the United Nations and Egypt did. Therefore, the solution is as the late President Anwar as-Sadat referred to during his last visit to the United States and as was referred to by President Husni Mubarak: Direct contact between the PLO and the Israeli Government. Until such direct contact takes place, however, Egyptian diplomacy sees that instead of having some sort of void and instead of putting the Palestinian issue on the "shelf" in order to fill this void, the tripartite talks should continue to fill this void and reach a transitional system. Such a system will not be established without the approval of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These Palestinians will not participate in the transitional system except with the consent of the PLO. Therefore, the matter is as if the Egyptian style of action is based on the transitional system so long as there is no direct contact between the main parties. This transitional system is to help the Palestinian people begin negotiations with the Israeli side.

Question: Israeli officials have stressed that to them the Camp David agreements do not mean the establishment of a Palestinian state. They even go to the extent of saying that a Palestinian state may take the form of a confederation with Jordan. How do you link the two views and do you see a defined form of the Palestinian state?

Answer: We don't have any defined image of the Palestinian state for it is the Palestinian people who will decide the form that is agreeable to them. Egyptian diplomacy has no mandate from the Palestinian people.

Question: Do you believe Egyptian-Arab relations are closer to reconciliation and the end of alienation than they were during the period between the Baghdad summit and the As-Sadat assassination?

Answer: The mistake journalists usually make is that they consider Egyptian-Arab relations over the short term. These relations must be considered from the start of this century to today, that is, from 1922 or 1924 (the first Islamic conference) or from 22 March 1945 (the formation of the Arab League) so that it becomes possible to judge them accurately.

You find that throughout this period there were times of weak relations and times of friendly relations. There was some vacillating. For example, you find that relations between Egypt and the Arabs in September 1961 were worse than they are now. That was the date when Egypt and Syria disengaged. In the Shtawrah Conference of 1962, 13 Arab states demanded Egypt's dismissal from the Arab league. Thus it is wrong to view Egyptian-Arab relations as of 1977.

In 1949 a similar disagreement occurred when the Arabs were divided into two parties. One group included Jordan and Iraq and demanded the annexation of the West Bank to East Jordan. A group consisting of Egypt and Saudi Arabia demanded the formation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. It seems that disagreement over the future of the Palestinian question is not new to the Arab society. Disagreement over other issues is not new either. So if you want to judge Egyptian-Arab relations, you must judge them over a long period through a historic dimension in order to be able to make a judgment.

Question: The special feature of the recent Egyptian-Arab disagreements is that they resulted from Arab unanimity during the Baghdad summit to boycott Egypt in order to pressure it to renounce the Camp David agreements.

Answer: First of all, there was no unanimity, but unanimity was available during the Shtawrah Conference. Second, you must view these relations on two levels: The government level and the popular level. Relations on the popular level are excellent. Here in Cairo there are thousands of Arab brothers and in the Arab world there are nearly 3 million Egyptian experts and laborers. However, if you look at Egyptian-Arab relations between 1961 and 1970, you find that not a single Egyptian expert was present in the Arab world.

Question: Are there now any (secret or open) attempts to reconcile Egypt with the Arabs?

Answer: It is the Arab states that severed relations, and if they want to come back to Egypt they are welcome.

Question: Are you not preoccupied with this matter here?

Answer: No, Egypt is not preoccupied with the question. There is no doubt about this. And I repeat that if the Arab states wish to come back they are welcome. However, they must bear in mind that we shall continue our relations with Israel and we shall implement the commitments of the peace treaty. There are now some Arab countries that have embassies in Cairo side by side with the Israeli Embassy. I can mention Somalia, Sudan and the Sultanate of Oman. We hope that in the coming months other Arab states will deal with Egypt on this basis.

Question: Don't you believe that the measures announced by President Husni Mubarak concerning the halting of press and propaganda campaigns against the Arab states prepare the atmosphere for the resumption of Egyptian-Arab relations?

Answer: There is no doubt that this simplifies the return of the Arabs to Egypt. However, it is the Arab states that must return.

Question: Has President Mubarak's visit to Oman anything to do with the issue of returning to the Arabs?

Answer: That visit dealt with bilateral relations. These relations are similar to our relations with Khartoum and Mogadishu.

Question: Do you believe that Prince Fahd's peace plan is an intermediate plan between the Camp David agreements and a new Arab situation toward the search for peace?

Answer: Any plan consists of two sides -- the principles and the practical side, or how to implement the principles. Prince Fahd's plan consists of only a bunch of principles. How will these principles be implemented? Will Saudi diplomacy contact Israel, or will it think of convening a tripartite, quadripartite or a general conference? Will there be direct or indirect contacts? It is not principles which matter. Principles were recorded in November 1967 in resolution 242. What matters now is: "What is the framework of action for implementing these principles?" This plan does not propose any framework of action. Add to this the fact that for any plan to have a chance of success it must involve contacts with the other party, which in this case is Israel. Since these contacts have not begun and since agreement on the proper channels for these contacts has not been achieved, it is difficult to talk about any plan.

Question: But don't you believe that once that the Arab states declare support for Prince Fahd's plan at the next Fes summit they will be in a better negotiating situation than Egypt?

Answer: I cannot adopt a policy on the basis of a future situation. At this point I can mention that there was the plan proposed by Ceausescu. I went to Romania and issued a statement welcoming the plan. We also welcomed the Soviet plan. There was also the European plan and also the Latin American plan. Contacts are underway now to propose an African plan. We welcome any plan that will achieve comprehensive peace in the region. We don't claim that peace must take place through a certain method. What matters is the goal and not the method. However, we must take into consideration the steps we have taken within the framework of the peace treaty. Moreover, the other party must agree and that is Israel. If a double rejection exists as is the case now -- the PLO refuses to recognize Israel and Israel refuses to recognize the PLO -- a dialogue will not be possible and it will not be possible to find any plan. What is a plan? It is a framework for dialogue. However, a framework is inevitable for such a dialogue to be possible, for example, where this dialogue will take place, around which table, and also the seating arrangement around that table.

Question: Recently, Israel carried out several hostile operations against the Arab states. Didn't you feel embarrassed because of these operations?

Answer: These operations are considered now obstacles to peace. I can in reply list a number of new obstacles created by the Arab side. For example (and without mentioning names) when a war takes place between an Arab state and a non-Arab state, isn't that war considered an obstacle to peace? And when a dispute between two Arab states intensifies, isn't this regarded as an obstacle to peace? As I have said, I can list a number of Israeli obstacles -- I don't wish to underestimate their dangers -- such as the establishment of new settlements, the annexation of the Golan or the annexation of Jerusalem. However, to be "fair" from the objective and scientific point of view, I can also mention obstacles that were created by the other side.

Question: Israel's relationship to the Iranian-Iraqi war may not be understood.

Answer: I don't wish to mention names, but I do want to say that the peace process necessitates efforts by the parties concerned. If one of the parties concerned is preoccupied with other problems, this preoccupation is considered an obstacle to peace.

Question: What if an Israeli aggression takes place against one of the Arab confrontation states or any other Arab state?

Answer: There is no doubt that such aggression must be considered an obstacle to peace.

Question: We mean what will your practical stand be once this aggression has taken place?

Answer: Also an obstacle and we shall continue to negotiate.

Question: On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, do you believe the time is right for a union between the two countries within the framework of their economic integration?

Answer: I went to Sudan as a student in 1943. Since then I have been to Sudan dozens of times. I personally, and in my normal capacity (as a writer and thinker), believe in the special and inevitable connection between Cairo and Khartoum. As for the way this connection should be materialized, this requires contacts, scientific study by both peoples and the image of such rapprochement -- and this is where we might disagree. In my opinion there will not be a future for either country for the next 20 or 30 years without real cohesion between them. I believe there are many difficulties, whether bureaucratic or technical, and there is a lack of real interest in the significance of this integration, which has impeded materialization of such integration.

Question: Observers describe your concern with Sudan as interference in Sudanese domestic affairs.

Answer: Any integration requires interference in mutual domestic affairs. Those who are not satisfied with this integration resort to this weapon.

Question: The GCC -- how do you appraise it?

Answer: Egypt welcomes any step toward Arab unity. We welcomed the Jordanian-Iraqi union in 1959. We also welcomed the unification plan for the Yemens because any step is a positive move toward comprehensive unity. Therefore, the GCC is a partial unity that we welcome.

Question: What is your view on the Iranian-Iraqi war? And to what extent do the effects of this war reflect on the region, as you see it?

Answer: We set great hope on the groups mediating to end this war, whether within the framework of the United Nations, the nonaligned group, the Islamic group or individual efforts. If we call for peace in the Middle East, it is more appropriate for us to call for peace between two Muslim states affiliated with the nonaligned group, sharing common borders, to cooperate instead of waging war against each other.

Question: The nonaligned summit conference is scheduled to be held in Baghdad. Can we say that President Husni Mubarak will participate?

Answer: I cannot answer this question because the level of Egypt's participation in that conference has not yet been decided. However, as I announced in Belgrade and New Delhi, Egypt respects the decisions of nonaligned summits. It was decided unanimously in Havana that the conference should be held in Baghdad. Egypt participated in that meeting, and logically we will participate in this conference.

DPRK VICE PREMIER CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT

NC071806 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 82

[From "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] DPRK Vice Premier for Economic Affairs Kong Chin-tae left Cairo today following an official visit to Egypt. Hamdi Jawhar reports:

[Begin recording] DPRK Vice Premier Kong Chin-tae left Cairo a short while ago at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and handed him a message from the Korean leader, Kim Il-song. The Korean guest also held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, focusing mainly on the Middle East situation. In this regard, the Korean delegation expressed its country's support for Egypt's efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East and support for the right of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and the right to self-determination.

The Egyptian side expressed support for the Korean proposal regarding the reunification of the two parts of Korea. The two sides also agreed to strengthen their bilateral relations in the various fields. [end recording]

EGYPTIAN-JAPANESE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OPENS TALKS

NC061 01 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA) -- Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki has expressed the Japanese Government's and people's support for the Egyptian efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East.

In a message to the second session of the joint Egyptian-Japanese economic committee, which began in Cairo today, the Japanese prime minister said Japan hopes Egypt will fully regain the Sinai in April according to schedule.

Zenko Suzuki praised the relations of strong cooperation between Egypt and Japan in various fields. He said Japan looks forward to further development of these relations in the coming years on the basis of mutual trust and respect.

SADDAM HUSAYN ADDRESSES ARAB LABOR DELEGATIONS

JN082026 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has called for finding a general structure which can serve as a basis for a joint Arab action, considering any foreign threat to the sovereignty, security, honor, independence and interests of any Arab country a threat to all Arab countries.

Speaking to the delegations participating in the 10th session of the Arab labor conference today, the president said that the first step toward establishing a general structure is that the Arab countries should agree to repulse the common threat when any part of the Arab homeland is exposed to a foreign danger.

He added that one cannot skip facts and imagine that the Arabs can reach agreement on everything. This, he said, is due to the fact that there are 22 states, 22 regimes and 22 bodies with 22 special economic cases.

The president pointed out that in February 1980 Iraq submitted a national declaration to regulate relations between the Arab countries and the neighboring nations. He added that the national declaration, which included the basic principles of Arab relations, was submitted before the eruption of the Iraqi-Iranian war. President Saddam Husayn stressed that the need to establish fraternal relations between the Arab countries is dictated by concepts related to the relationship between one part and another for the sake of enabling the Arab nation to assume its historical role. Such a role cannot be assumed unless we are together in soul before status, in conscience before hand [as received] and in deed before words.

He added that Iraq did not continue to campaign for the national declaration charter after the war lest others should think that its principles were dictated by temporary war needs. He said that Iraq would submit this charter once again after its victory in the war. This charter consists of eight articles calling for solving Arab differences as well as Arab-foreign differences peacefully and for a unanimous Arab confrontation of any foreign aggression against any Arab country.

President Saddam Husayn said that the Arab countries should agree to central concepts which do not harm any country but rather create common benefits for all Arab countries. He added that among the national declaration principles is one calling for solving problems between the Arab countries and neighboring nations politically if possible. However, if any people or nation threatens any Arab country's dignity, sovereignty, security or interests, the Arabs must consider it a threat against them all. Hence, any foreigner antagonizing any Arab country is antagonizing all the Arabs.

President Saddam Husayn said that the good words expressed by the Arab brothers participating in the conference are equal to so many combat divisions in the army. He stressed that simple words coming from the heart and conscience are like military divisions now fighting with the Iraqi divisions, in which Iraq takes pride.

He emphasized that building the Arab nation makes it incumbent on every Arab country to sacrifice for the other countries. He said that building the nation makes you duty-bound to serve your brother and not to impose yourself on him as a leader or a guardian. He stressed that Iraq needs the Arab nation not in a transient technical, material or individual sense. Its need for the Arab nation, he said, stems from joint capability and not from the need to deal with Iraq's weakness. Iraq needs the Arab nation for the sake of making this nation assume its historical role.

Al-Hashimi Banani, director general of the Arab Labor Organization and secretary of the conference, delivered a speech in which he thanked the president for patronizing their conference. He pledged that all the delegations' efforts would be exerted to boost joint Arab action and benefit the Arab nation. He expressed the delegation's admiration for the comprehensive development they saw in Iraq. He praised the Iraqi people, who are building their country at a time when they are waging war against the enemy. He said: Our people in fraternal Iraq are today fighting against backwardness and building the edifice of civilization on the one hand and taking part against hegemony and aggression for the sake of liberation on the other.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary and acting chief of the president's office; Bakr Mahmud Rasul, minister of labor and social affairs; and 'Abd al-Muhsin Musallam, Labor Ministry under secretary and chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

The Arab labor conference, in which the Arab labor ministers are taking part, began its meetings here today.

HUSAYN SAYS IRAN'S LOSSES IN BOSTAN EXCEED 8,000

JN091027 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has disclosed that Iranian losses in the Bostan sector exceed 8,000 dead.

Addressing volunteers of the special task brigades in one of the training camps yesterday, President Saddam Husayn said that after their successful offensives in the Bostan sector and after setting up their defenses, the Iraqi forces crushed all Iranian counterattacks, the last of which comprised several brigades of Khomeyni guards.

He added that the military commander in charge of the Bostan sector informed the General Command that the Persian casualties amounted to 6,253 dead. The commander was, however, instructed by the General Command to disclose only half this figure. The president added that he met this commander the day before yesterday who told him that well over 6,000 bodies still litter the front opposite the Iraqi positions. This is in addition to those buried by the Iraqi forces at the end of the battles.

CLANDESTINE RADIO ON REPORT OF BAHRAIN ARRESTS

GF081830 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] [Words indistinct] the so-called Amnesty International has confirmed the circulated reports that more than 3,000 Bahrainis have been arrested by the ruling regime and that 6 of them have died from the torture being practiced by the Al Khalifah executioners. This came in a statement issued by Amnesty International in London today.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES POW FAMILY VISITS TO BEGIN

JN041442 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi committee in charge of following up family visits to the Iraqi and Iranian POW's held an expanded meeting here today under Ahmad Husayn, Foreign Ministry under secretary and chairman of the committee. The committee, which met upon the directives of President Saddam Husayn, studied the proposals concerning these visits and adopted the necessary decisions to begin visits as of the 15th of this month. The decisions stressed the important human aims behind hosting these families and facilitating their visits.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS POOLING SECURITY FORCES

NC081057 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Following this morning's meeting of the Internal Security Council under the chairmanship of prime minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] Commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib answered a question on the reports that the pooling of the deterrent forces is being discussed. He said: The recent ADF deployment deprived them of the ability to move in patrols. Inasmuch as the conditions are stable and good now, we will try to pool the forces we recently spread to deploy them in continuous patrols. There is no change concerning the stationary basic organs because the current situation requires the intensification of the patrols. He added that his visit to Damascus yesterday was positive, as were all previous visits.

SARKIS MEETS WITH ADF INTELLIGENCE CHIEF

NC081607 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Within the framework of consultations between Beirut and Damascus President Ilyas Sarkis today met with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and chief of the Arab Deterrent Forces' Intelligence Department Col Muhammad Ghanim. Discussions dealt with the situation in Lebanon, Lebanese-Syrian relations, and coordination between the two countries.

Following the meeting, Minister Butrus made the following statement: Following the postponement of the meeting of the Arab Followup Committee it was natural to hold consultations with all the parties concerned on the situation in order to formulate a concept that will enable the Followup Committee to assume its task and make some progress.

My meeting with Colonel Ghanim is within this framework and in preparation for the meeting we will hold with [Arab League Secretary General] Chedli Klibi, who will arrive in Lebanon within the next few days. The meeting was an opportunity to review some aspects and matters that are of interest to our countries and in which Syria can play a role. We exchanged views and Colonel Ghanim will inform the Syrian authorities of the outcome of our meeting today.

VOP NOTES ISRAELI MANEUVERS, HADDAD ON UNIFIL

JN051540 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] A joint forces' spokesman in southern Lebanon reported that the loud explosions heard within the occupied border strip around 2:00 pm yesterday were due to Israeli maneuvers with live ammunition.

Meanwhile, rightist militia leader Sa'd Haddad has announced that he will not permit the new UNIFIL 1,000-man unit to be positioned in the area separating the border strip from the rest of the south since this is the entry point for an Israeli attack against Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces in southern Lebanon.

Cites 'Military Kibbutz'

NC081257 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Zionist enemy planes broke the sound barrier over Beirut this morning. They also intensively overflow areas in the south.

Reports from the occupied border strip say the Zionist occupation forces continue to reinforce the settlement they set up on (Jabal Harakah), southwest of 'Urqub on the Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian territorial triangle.

Quoting international and military sources, Lebanese papers said today that this settlement is tantamount to a military kibbutz. They added that a number of artillery peices have been brought in lately. Radar equipment is being installed at sites in the settlement.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD INTERVIEWED BY OBSERVER

JN081005 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Interview granted by President Hafiz al-Asad to Patrick Seale of the OBSERVER on 2 March in Damascus -- read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, you have achieved a victory at the United Nations on the Golan issue. In my opinion, however, this has not helped you regain the area. What are your next steps on the Syrian, Arab and international levels?

[Answer] As is now known to everyone, our battle with Israel is a long one. The occupation, annexation or liberation of the Golan is a step in this long battle. At the United Nations we had a political and diplomatic struggle, which achieved a victorious step against aggressor Israel. This step must be backed and complemented by many other steps in various other fields. Our general objective is to liberate our occupied territories and to return our Arab people, whether Syrian or Palestinian, to their occupied territories. This objective generally calls for continuous and growing victorious steps. We do not doubt for one moment that we will regain our rights no matter how long it takes, because aggression is bound to end in recession and failure everywhere in this world. We are the owners of the right and the aggrieved party. We have the material and moral potential which, if properly used and utilized, will in time enable us to regain all our rights.

[Question] Mr President, you have spoken a great deal about the need for a strategic balance. What does it mean exactly? In view of Israel's strategic relationship with the United States, does this mean that you should also have a strategic relationship with the Soviet Union? By strategic relationship, I mean something beyond the mere conclusion of a friendship treaty; in other words, a Soviet commitment to help you if you are attacked. Is there indeed a strategic relationship between Syria and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Strategy is a concept based on various factors; military, political, economic, cultural, and so forth. When we stress the need for a strategic balance between us and Israel, we mean that our capabilities, as an aggregate of all the aforementioned factors, must not be less than those of Israel. This should curb Israel's expansionist ambitions and, consequently, help achieve just peace in this region.

[Question] Some people in the West believe that too much pressure on you will prompt you to further consolidate your ties with the Soviet Union, and that you might become another Cuba. What do you say to that?

[Answer] Relations between us and the Soviet Union are based on good and firm friendship. These relations are strengthening day after day. In light of our experience in this region, we clearly feel that the USSR adopts fair principled stands, supporting justice and opposing aggression, occupation of territories, dispersion of peoples and expansion. Such stands cannot but gain the respect of nations and peoples everywhere. On the other hand, we feel that the United States adopts completely contradictory stands by its limitless support and assistance to Israel in all its aggressions and expansionist moves.

[Question] Do you feel, Mr President, that the United States has let you down? When you met with President Carter in Geneva in 1977, it seems matters proceeded well between you. Ever since, relations have been deteriorating. There is the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel and the veto against the Golan resolution. You are also accusing the United States of interfering in your internal affairs. Can it be said that your relations with the United States are at rock bottom and that you consider it an aggressor state?

[Answer] I have often said before that I came out of my meeting with President Carter in Geneva with very positive impressions. But what has happened since has made us more and more certain that the United States does not have an American policy in this region but an Israeli policy, which it is implementing. The examples substantiating what we are saying are many.

[Question] Do you consider it as an aggressor state? Do you believe the United States has moved to a hostile position and has become your enemy?

[Answer] You know and we, the Arabs, know and also the Israelis and Americans know that were it not for the continued, diversified and growing U.S. political, military and economic support, Israel would not have been able to attack, expand and occupy the territories of neighboring Arab states. In light of this reality, do you expect us to say that the United States is a friendly state? Or, does the United States itself expect us to say that?

[Question] Is there any hope of the Americans doing anything about this problem, or have you given up on their putting pressure on Israel to make it withdraw? Some people believe the Americans have torn up resolution 242 and that they have no real intention of pressuring Israel. They are only concerned about short-term crises and how to solve them. They have no intention of tackling long-term problems. [passage indistinct due to faulty recording].

[Question] Do you believe Mr Reagan is following the right course? Or, is he following the wrong course?

[Answer] How can we say that an American administration is following the right course when it is giving Israel everything it needs to occupy our territories. At any rate, had we believed that the U.S. administration was following the right course, we would have come to an agreement. The United States would also not have needed to waste its efforts in equipping terrorist individuals and groups of the reactionary Muslim Brotherhood gang and entrusting them to carry out acts of sabotage in our country, especially since it was doing all this at a time when it is speaking out loudly about defending freedom, justice and human rights and combatting international terrorism. I would like to add between parentheses: Perhaps the United States does not consider its acts of terrorism in Syria as international terrorism, which it advocates combatting.

[Question] Is there any proof that the United States was behind these acts? Can I also ask what type of proof it is?

[Answer] There is a lot of proof, including confessions by some of the criminals about their contacts with agent channels of the United States and the military hardware in our hands which is American. It could not have reached the criminal terrorists without U.S. approval. There is another flagrant proof; the statement of the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, which leaves no doubt about the connection between the criminal terrorists and the United States.

[Question] Could the military hardware have come to Syria from Israel through the Phalangists?

[Answer] I do not mean that, although we have previous evidence of military hardware arriving in this way. But I was referring to another way.

[Question] Does Mr President mean Jordan or Iraq?

[Answer] It is not important now to indicate how. At any rate, it was U.S. military hardware, which came with U.S. approval and through areas under the influence and control of U.S. agents. Perhaps, we will give further details in the future.

[Question] I admired the missile diplomacy you pursued last year in the Al-Biqa'. Do you have any intention of withdrawing these missiles or pulling out completely from Lebanon?

[Answer] Complete withdrawal depends on need and the development of the situation in Lebanon. The existence or nonexistence of the missiles falls within a context, since the missiles are part of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] sent there to defend these forces. The missiles will be removed from Lebanon with the removal of this need or this reason

[Question] Begin has often said that he will attack and destroy these missiles. Do you think he will or is it too late now?

[Answer] Thinking about what Begin will do is not important. We will stay where we are. If we are attacked or aggressed upon, we will confront the aggression. We are in a fraternal Arab country and on Arab territory. This is a Syrian-Lebanese matter. Neither Israel nor anyone else has the right to interfere.

[Question] Is Philip Habib still trying to make you withdraw these missiles?

[Answer] He has raised the matter with us before. Our reply is known. It is along the lines I have just mentioned. If Habib raises it again, we will have no other answer.

[Question] Would you, Mr President, explain militarily the strategic significance of Al-Biqa'? Is there any threat to Syria from Al-Biqa'? Is it essential for you to be in Al-Biqa' to defend Syria?

[Answer] The matter is not viewed this way. Our Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' and elsewhere at one time came under Israeli air attack. We had to provide whatever was essential to defend the forces that had been attacked. Strategic exigency is essentially to protect our forces which came under attack in Al-Biqa'.

[Question] A general question: Is the Al-Biqa' itself essential for defending Syria?

[Answer] Al-Biqa' and the whole of Lebanon are essential for defending Syria. At any rate, Al-Biqa' is the part nearest to Syria, and to Damascus in fact. However, we did not go to Lebanon for this purpose. We went there because of what happened in Lebanon a few years ago. We announced our objectives very clearly at the time we went to Lebanon.

[Question] Allow me, Mr President, to ask another question on the Arab-Israeli dispute. Do you agree with me that as long as Begin is in power in Israel and as long as the Israeli Government does not want to give up any of the occupied territory, there is no hope for any negotiations?

[Answer] Since, as you say, the Begin government rejects everything, on what will we negotiate? Still, it must be clear that any solutions proposed must come through the United Nations, because the peace process is not a bilateral issue or a question of negotiation between Syria and Israel.

[Question] Can it be said that peace is possible with Begin if he agreed to withdraw from the occupied territories?

[Answer] Peace has its bases, which we have mentioned only too often. They are: complete withdrawal from the occupied territories and giving the Palestinians their full rights, including the right to establish an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

[Question] Therefore, there is little hope for negotiation at present. But don't you agree with me that there can be no hope for a military option without a two-front strategy? In such a case the state of no peace, no war will continue. Is your strategy one of waiting?

[Answer] We are not facing one of two choices: either war or surrender. We are facing other options, including adhering to rights, rejecting aggression, insisting on liberating land and regaining rights and preparing in all fields to serve these objectives.

[Question] Do you believe Egypt will one day return as a combatant state on the Arab side?

[Answer] Egypt is a part of the Arab homeland and must remain so regardless of the anomalous period it is going through. Egypt is bound to return to assume its appropriate place in defending the issues of the Arab nation.

[Question] Have you had any secret contact with Husni Mubarak, especially since we know that other Arab states have sent people to pave the way for contact with him?

[Answer] I have known President Husni Mubarak well for a long time. But I have had no contact with him since he assumed the presidency in Egypt.

[Question] Is it true that since both of you were air force officers this could facilitate rapprochement?

[Answer] All I can say about this is that Egypt will return to the Arab fold without conditions. Egypt's cause is that of the Arabs and its stand is that of the Arabs.

[Question] While in Jordan I received reports that the moderate Arab countries -- Morocco, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia -- had reached an implicit agreement to contain and isolate Syria and bring economic pressures to bear on it. We have also seen how the Kuwaiti parliament voted against participation in financing the ADF. What do you say about this anti-Syria move? Do you think it is a real one?

[Answer] No, it is not. Our relations with the Arab countries, except Jordan and Iraq, are good. However, inter-Arab relations are not basically financial ones, as has been depicted by some Western sources.

[Question] Your Excellency: Do you believe the Kuwaiti Government will reverse or abide by the Kuwaiti parliament decision?

[Answer] Actually we have not discussed this matter nor did we attach importance to it, because it is primarily related to Arab resolutions which have at one time or another stressed the need for some Arab countries to participate in financing the ADF in Lebanon. These resolutions were not adopted at Syria's proposal but rather upon the proposal of the same Arab countries which participated in the financing process. As you know, we were in Lebanon before this decision was made. Nobody imagined that the developments in Lebanon were connected with the financing of the ADF, whether the size of this financing is large or small. It could be useful to point out here that the amount of financing does not cover ADF expenses but only a proportion of these expenses. At any rate, our relations with Kuwait are good.

[Question] My Palestinian friends have told me that Fatah recently adopted a decision at the highest level to work closely with Syria to amalgamate their strategies with those of Syria. Syria and the PLO with the support of the Soviet Union constitutes a strong group. Is this one of the options you mentioned?

[Answer] Relations between Syria and the PLO are strong and cannot be otherwise. We have one objective. We must therefore pursue the same road toward achieving this objective. This is what has always been asserted by the Syrian and Palestinian sides. It would be difficult for any side to convince Syrian officials or PLO officials to view this matter from any other perspective.

[Question] What is the basis of your dispute with the Iraqi regime? Do you feel that the war with Iran is diverting efforts from the primary battle? Do you feel that Syria should have been consulted before Iraq entered the war?

[Answer] The war between Iraq and Iran made us lose Iraq, the Arab country, and Iran the Islamic country, two effective powers which could have played a role in the battle we are waging against aggression. Hence, our stand denouncing this war waged by the Iraqi regime by invading Iran. The Iranian revolution had toppled the shah and was advocating the liberation of Jerusalem and was supporting the Arabs in their battle against aggression. Moreover, the Iraqi regime aborted the process of unity which we had agreed to establish between Syria and Iraq when Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr was the president of the Iraqi Republic.

[Question] Let us, if possible, move toward internal matters. What have you deduced from what has taken place in Hamah?

[Answer] Nothing new from this perspective. The matter is related to terrorist groups of the Muslim Brotherhood gang. These groups were motivated by the United States to carry out disturbances. They killed a large number of citizens -- children, women and the elderly. This was confirmed by many Hamah citizens on television. These criminal groups burned a number of trade and supply institutions and looted many shops. The United States and its agents in the region believed that this would confuse Syria and force it to kneel down before the Israeli administration. As you see, this is the result. This act of terrorism has failed to affect Syria's steadfastness and to change its political decision. This act has also failed to weaken Syria's popular system which is based on the broadest spectrum of the masses represented by their party, the National Progressive Front, popular organizations and trade unions.

[Question] Mr President: You are known as a great pan-Arab leader as well as a socialist leader. Will events increase your hostility toward the United States and make you more leftist?

[Answer] We, in our party, are both socialists and nationalists. That is to say, we believe in the one Arab nation. We are endeavoring to achieve unity of its countries and are working to build a democratic system that will bring justice to the citizens. From the national, progressive and socialist point of view as well as from the humanitarian point of view, I cannot but be against the agents who are dealing with foreign forces against the interests of the homeland. I cannot but be against reactionary groups that entertain an outdated mentality or against terrorist groups that resort to killing and sabotage.

[Question] You have been [Ba'th Party] in power for 19 years, how does President Hafiz al-Asad think now?

[Answer] What makes me satisfied is that I have always been in harmony with my convictions and responded to our people's desires and aspirations. This is because the people are the source of all power and I subsist on the feelings of love exchanged between the citizens and myself. I have confidence in the future of our people and nation. I believe we are the owners of right and that we will regain all usurped rights.

TISHRIN INTERVIEWS TALAS ON MARCH REVOLUTION

JN081333 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 8 Mar (SANA) -- Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces and minister of defense, has stressed that our armed forces will continue the pan-Arab struggle, ignoring pressures and conspiratorial attempts. Armed with their powerful faith and determination, the armed forces will achieve their main goal, which is embodied in liberating every inch of our usurped Arab land. There is no other goal which is above this sacred goal.

In statement to TISHRIN published today on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the glorious 8 March revolution, General Talas said that we can be proud of the standard of our armed forces.

Talas added: We are working with all our potential to proceed with tenacious steps toward improving and even toward perfecting the building of the October army so that it will be up to the level of tasks assigned to it during these critical times.

Talas stressed that our hero armed forces celebrate the beginning of a new year in the life of the glorious 8 March revolution at a time when it is stronger, firmer and having more faith and determination to face all challenges and to confront all the designs and conspiracies that face our nation in its victorious procession toward liberation and victory. Talas said that our armed forces are moving from a strong position to a stronger one so that they will be an active tool in protecting our people's gains, defending its holy places and resisting invasion and aggression. All attempts at undermining the armed forces' pan-Arab role, which they performed in past years and which they will continue to perform perfectly, will be foiled.

Gen Mustafa Talas expressed confidence in the ability of our armed forces, which is increasing every day. Talas praised the honorable role of our armed forces during the October liberation war when our fighter was a courageous hero, exerting all efforts for the dignity of the Arab nation, its rank and glory.

Talas also praised the honorable role of our armed forces in Lebanon where they responded to the call of brothers in blood and fate to stop the bloody massacres and prevent the fragmentation of the Arab Lebanese state. He said that our armed forces, by responding to Lebanon's call, have confirmed the patriotic and pan-Arab spirit.

Talas added that the 8 March revolution, which has shown great interest in building our ideological army, gave our human fighter the care he deserves by deepening his knowledge and education, training him according to the latest methods and enabling him to deal with the most complicated arms and ammunition.

Talas stressed that from the beginning of the March revolution our army was the strong rock shattering conspiracies and colonialist and Zionist designs.

Talas said: Our revolution has shown our armed forces great care and supported them with all the means of its power. The corrective movement came to strengthen and develop our armed forces.

Concerning the steps that were taken in building the strategic balance with the enemy, General Talas said: We are trying hard to build our intrinsic power and restore our usurped rights so that our armed forces will be able to face all challenges.

He said: We depend mainly on our people who reject capitulation and defeatism, on our intrinsic means which are increasing every day and on our friends in the socialist bloc headed by the friendly USSR.

He added that the fierce attack our nation is exposed to aims primarily at obstructing the process of building, in order to weaken us and give the arena to imperialism, its agents and the partners of treason to impose their hegemony on our people.

He stressed that imperialists, Zionists and their reactionary agents headed by the Muslim Brotherhood gangs will be wrecked by our heavy blows. They are increasing their attack on Syria, the leading Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, using psychological and media warfare and the arms they give the Muslim Brotherhood gangs to that they will destroy Syria internally and by external threats, concentrations and instigations.

The deputy commander in chief said: We tell them that just as we triumphed over imperialism and agents in the past, we will triumph now and in the future every time and everywhere!

Talas concluded by stressing that the current period through which our people are passing require us to enjoy the highest standard of preparations and combat efficiency. He said that our people pin great hope on the October fighting and that we must be worthy of our people's trust.

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON BA'TH-KKE TALKS

JN061801 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] The following joint statement has been issued on the Greek Communist Party [KKE] delegation's visit to Syria and its talks with a delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP]: At the invitation of the ASBP national command, a Greek Communist Party delegation, headed by the party's secretary general, Kharilaos Florakis, paid a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic between 2 and 6 March 1982. The delegation also comprised Comrades Kolozov, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of its International Relations Department; Viannis Mavromatis, Central Committee candidate member; and (Dorasari), from the KKE's newspaper. The delegation was received by the comrade assistant secretary general of the ASBP. Comrade Mahmud al-Ayyubi, member of the National Command and deputy chairman of the National Progressive Front also met with the delegation.

The delegation held party and political talks with a delegation of the ASBP led by Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the National Command and chairman of the Foreign Relations Department, and including Comrades Fawzi ar-Rawi, member of the National Command; Muhammad Abu Zarad, director of the Foreign Relations Office; Fawzi as-Sayyagh, from the Information and Publications Office; and Salah Ra'd, chairman of European affairs at the Foreign Relations Office.

The two delegations held talks in an atmosphere of mutual and complete trust and understanding of the circumstances of the two parties' struggle against imperialism and Zionism. The two sides discussed relations between the two parties and other issues of common interest. They paid special attention to the volatile situation in the Middle East.

The two sides condemned the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary designs and conspiracies aimed against the Arab people and their liberation movement and represented by the Camp David accords and their serious consequences, which were aimed originally against the Arab nation's rights and strategic interests, the region's liberation and progress and the Middle East's security and durable peace.

The two sides condemned the treacherous Camp David accords and rejected all the results stemming from these accords, particularly so-called autonomy for the Palestinians, which aims at liquidating the Palestinian cause, bypassing the Palestinian people's national rights and legalizing Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

The two sides denounced Israel's terrorist practices in the occupied Arab territories, its establishment of settlements and its measures to annex these territories recently demonstrated in the decisions to annex Arab Jerusalem and the Syrian Arab Golan Heights. Such acts clearly express Israel's aggressive and expansionist nature, contradict the UN Charter and resolutions and belittle all common values and principles as well as world public opinion.

The two sides stressed that Israel would not be able to behave so blatantly were it not for unlimited U.S. aid and support, best manifested at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly, stands that translate the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement into action.

The two sides asserted that a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East is conditional upon a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and a full recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's constant national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state on their national Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The two sides praised the stands of states that backed Arab rights at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly, including Greece, which supported Arab rights despite U.S. pressures.

They highly evaluated the steadfastness of the Arabs inside the occupied Arab territories and their firm rejection of occupation, particularly the brave stand of the inhabitants of the Syrian Golan Heights, who reject the Israeli annexation law, and their challenge to all the Israeli authorities' pressures on them.

While reviewing the situation in Lebanon, the two sides condemned Israel's continued aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, its flagrant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and its obstruction of the achievement of national accord. They reiterated their support for the struggle of the nationalist progressive forces to defend Lebanon's Arabism, independence and territorial integrity. The two sides called for further bolstering the power of the legitimate authority throughout Lebanon and respecting the legitimate interests of the Palestinian resistance movement. The two sides also praised Syria's positive and constructive role in Lebanon as well as that of the Arab Deterrent Forces, which intend to restore security and stability to Lebanon. The two sides asserted that the war raging between Iraq and Iran conflicts with the real interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and that this war serves imperialist designs to regain control over the region. This war, furthermore, distracts the attention of the Arabs and the world from the real crisis in the region.

The two sides studied the situation in Cyprus and the developments of the Cypriot cause. They reconfirmed their support for and solidarity with the Cypriot people's struggle to solve the Cypriot problem on the basis of the UN resolutions in this regard and to have a unified and independent state that may practice sovereignty over its regional territories, a state that would be free of all foreign bases and forces.

While touching on the international situation, the two sides voiced their apprehension over the increasing tension resulting from the U.S. imperialist aggressive policy and measures as was displayed recently in the attempts to impose sanctions on Poland and the USSR, which has endangered international detente. Therefore, the two sides condemned imperialist attempts to secure military superiority by building up its armament, threatening the international scene and blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of other states and peoples.

The two sides underlined the importance of further promoting the joint struggle among peoples in order to repulse all the destructive imperialist designs and to exclude the use of violence in relations among states. They reconfirmed their support for and solidarity with the struggle of peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin America against imperialism, reaction, Zionism and racial discrimination for the sake of national independence and social progress. They expressed satisfaction with their bilateral relations which help to further promote and strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Arab and Greek peoples, to further entrench their independence and development and their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism and to bring about a just and durable peace in the region and the entire world.

KKE Delegation Departs

JN062015 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2005 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Damascus, 6 Mar (SANA) -- The Greek Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Florakis, the party's secretary general, left here for Beirut today at the end of a visit of several days to Syria.

LIBYA'S JALLUD ARRIVES, MEETS AL-ASAD

Khaddam Welcomes Jallud

JN081704 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Excerpt] 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Revolution Command Council in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, arrived in Damascus this afternoon and was received at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Misbah Dalati, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Ahmad bin Khayyal, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Damascus; and the bureau's staff.

Al-Qadhdhafi Message Conveyed

JN081954 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1630 today 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Jallud conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad a message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, dealing with bilateral cooperation and the situation in the region.

Jallud Departs

JN082146 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, left Damascus at 2030 tonight following a visit to the country during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Misbah Dalati, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Ahmad bin Khayyal, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Damascus; and the bureau's staff saw Major Jallud off.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MONGOLIA

JN041540 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1458 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 4 Mar (SANA) -- A joint cooperation agreement was signed here today between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP]. The agreement was signed for the Ba'th Party by Comrade Ahmad al-Hasan, Ba'th Party National Command candidate member. It was signed for the MPRP by Comrade Namsray, member of MPRP Central Committee.

Speeches were exchanged during the occasion stressing the importance of this agreement which will promote relations of friendship and cooperation between the parties and peoples and their joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionaries.

MPRP Delegation Departs

JN051317 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] delegation led by Comrade Namsray, member of the MPRP Central Committee, left Damascus for Aden this morning at the end of a weeklong visit to Syria. While here, the delegation held party and political talks crowned by the signing of a cooperation agreement between the parties. The delegation also met with some leading comrade officials in the party and popular organizations and became acquainted with the most important economic accomplishments in Syria.

CSSR ASSEMBLY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN072022 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] The CSSR Federal Assembly delegation headed by Chairman Alois Indra arrived in Damascus this evening on a 5-day visit to Syria at the invitation of Syrian People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi. Az-Zu'bi welcomed the delegation, asserting that this visit has special significance for us because it comes during victory celebrations and parades on the March revolution anniversary in which leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad kindly participated walking at the head of the march from the rally grounds through Damascus streets to the People's Assembly building.

Az-Zu'bi also said that this visit is particularly significant in view of current international circumstances, relations of friendship and cooperation binding the two countries and Czechoslovakia's support for the Arab nation's just causes of liberation and construction.

In a reply speech, Alois Indra expressed his profound gratitude for the invitation extended to him to visit Syria and said: Our friendship is strong, goes back a long time in history and is being strengthened day after day. This friendship is based on the principles of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. He asserted that Czechoslovakia would continue supporting the just struggle of the Arab people in general and the Palestinian people in particular.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES LETTER FROM BABRAK KARMAL

JN041716 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a letter from Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

BEGIN, SHAMIR CONFER WITH U.S. ENVOY HABIB

TA082000 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Menahem Begin conferred with U.S. envoy Philip Habib in his residence in Jerusalem. Also attending the meeting were Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan, chief of the IDF intelligence branch Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. This meeting was intended to round up the current tour of the Middle East by the U.S. envoy. Our political correspondent reports that Habib's reports indicate that there is readiness in the Arab countries to continue maintaining the cease-fire on the Lebanese border.

Israel expressed its concern over the terrorist buildup in Lebanon. This morning Philip Habib conferred with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Here is a report by our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram:

[Begin videotape] This was another round of talks and contacts held in the region by Philip Habib. The original objective of his mission has nearly been forgotten. It was to obtain the removal of the Syrian missiles stationed in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. The primary, immediate purpose of this mission was to maintain the cease-fire reached between Israel and the terrorists. It appears from Habib's report to Shamir that this objective has, for the time being, been achieved. Nothing was disclosed to the press, with the parties preferring to talk about the weather.

[Habib -- in English] What if we say the weather is good, beautiful?

[Ram] During his contacts in Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, Habib formed the impression that these countries are interested in maintaining the stability and avoiding opening fire. If the present situation continues, Foreign Minister Shamir said, Israel will not take action, although -- he emphasized -- Israel has prime interest in finding a solution to Lebanon's basic problems.

At the close of the meeting, one could once again hear the old refrain from this U.S. envoy:

[Habib -- in English] You know, I had a very nice talk with the foreign minister and his colleagues, and I gave him my views of the results of some of my travels around. That's about all I have to say to you. Thank you. [end videotape]

BEGIN, MINISTERS CONSULT AFTER MEETING HABIB

TA081817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Ministerial consultations, presided over by Menahem Begin and with the participation of the chief of staff, are currently underway at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. The meeting was convened after the lengthy talk envoy Philip Habib held with the prime minister. Our correspondent, Shim'on, Schiffer, reports that at the end of the meeting with the prime minister, Philip Habib refused to make any statement to the press. He was only prepared to say that the meeting was good. In the course of the meeting with Habib, the chief of staff as well of some ministers arrived at the prime minister's home and they are now engaged in consultations.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DENIES NEWSWEEK REPORT

TA081123 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] The prime minister's office has denied that the U.S. administration asked Israel not to act with cunning in its conflict with the terrorists in southern Lebanon. The intimation was that Israel might create a situation facilitating terrorist infiltration into Israeli territory, to claim that this was a provocation justifying IDF entry into Lebanon to liquidate the terrorists. Words to this effect are included in a report published by NEWSWEEK.

A communique from the prime minister's office says the NEWSWEEK editors should take notice of the fact that Israel does not act with cunning but with honesty, and expresses its positions unambiguously. The denial also says that the U.S. secretary of state never threatened Israel with economic sanctions. This refers to the report that Mr Begin accused the United States of creating a warlike atmosphere, after having received a letter from President Reagan asking Israel to prove that it is seeking peace.

MA'ARIV'S HARIF CRITICAL OF U.S. ENVOY'S MISSION

TA051838 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Mar 82 p 17

[Yosef Harif commentary: "Reagan Asked Begin for Israel To 'Prove It Wants Peace'"]

[Excerpt] With less gentleness and moderation than in Begin's expose to Mitterrand on Israel's security borders -- but still without "waving the big stick," in its communications with Cairo this week, Israel apparently left no room for doubt that whereas it will not back down from the painful commitment in the Camp David accords and the peace treaty to withdraw from the whole of Sinai to the agreed borderline, the process can still be stymied by the Egyptians even on the eve of the withdrawal when the IDF has in fact begun to evacuate the Yamit area.

Israel has stomachached the strange conduct of President Mubarak, who has refused to come to Jerusalem. It has ignored the unpalatable Egyptian endorsement of the demand for a Palestinian state. Despite gnawing doubts about the nature of the peace awaiting Israel after 26 April, it is resolved to implement its part of the peace treaty to the uttermost limit -- albeit up to and not beyond. When the argument arose over the demarcation of the permanent border between Egypt and Israel, and the Egyptians insisted on their own "marking," Israel informed them in unequivocal terms: If an agreement on the marking of the border is not reached before 26 April, then "we shall not budge from the present line."

President Mubarak was able to hear words to the same effect from Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The new Egyptian president may have been surprised to see how easily Israel gave up on his visit on account of Jerusalem (incidentally, Mubarak asked Shamir: "In what part of Jerusalem do you live, west or east?" and Shamir replied "There's only one 'part' -- Jerusalem...."). But on an issue which the Egyptians have regarded as marginal (the argument over "a few hundred meters"), Israel has dug its heels in: "We must conclude these negotiations prior to completion of the withdrawal."

The same message was voiced by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis for transmission to his superiors in Washington, so that they may not contend they have again been "surprised" -- if Israel does not after all withdraw from the rest of Sinai.

The United States took the message seriously. It began to fear a deterioration in Egyptian-Israeli relations. Maybe that is why it also tried to persuade President Mubarak to visit Israel as his predecessor As-Sadat had done without boycotting Jerusalem.

(As-Sadat also went to the eastern part of the city). But not only the United States, Egypt also took the Israeli warning seriously: Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who was due here on 15 March, announced that he would indeed be coming then, but that he would be paying an additional visit on 8 March, at the beginning of next week. It is easy to divine the reason for the "sudden" urgency on Egypt's part. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's message, prompted by the prime minister, struck home in Cairo: If the demarcation is not completed, Israel will not budge, notwithstanding the barricades erected in the Yamit area.

In contrast with the direct and moderate talk with the French president and the less moderate talk with the Egyptian president through Foreign Minister Shamir, Prime Minister Begin held one conversation this week that not only lacked gentleness but came pretty near to "having the big stick" -- namely, the conversation with President Reagan's special envoy, Philip Habib. We have grown accustomed the fruitless travels of this likeable diplomat who lives up to his name, so expectations are not all that great. Everybody knows that these missions, entrusted by President Reagan to Philip Habib, have but one purpose: to tranquilize and cool tempers in a region where the danger of war has been looming these many weeks. The assumption is that so long as Habib is circulating in the region and so long as his coming is in the offing, a renewed flareup is not in the cards.

This means that the U.S. administration has "forgotten" the original purpose of Habib's mission: to get the Syrian missiles out of the Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley. And lo and behold, instead of going to the Syrians, whether directly or through their "moderate" friend, Saudi Arabia, Habib comes to Israel. The impression is: Rather than exerting influence on Syria, the purpose of Habib's mission is to exert influence on...Menahem Begin.

Indeed, Habib brought the prime minister a message from President Reagan saying, among other things -- and therein lies its principal thrust -- that Israel is required to "provide evidence" [last two words in English] that it seeks peace, no less and no more. It is Israel who must provide this evidence....

Understandably, these words were liable to upset the prime minister. He asked Philip Habib: "Do you realize the significance of what is being said here? Read it again!" Begin said to him several times.

On the one hand, the U.S. administration is well aware that the Syrians in effect command Lebanon and do as they please there, while the terrorists, with massive Soviet aid, are reinforcing themselves and preparing for an operation at a time to suit themselves. On the other hand, Israel is required to provide evidence that it is a peace-seeking country.

The long and the short of it is that Washington sees fit to ignore the real state of affairs. It has lately become nervous and is constantly demanding restraint on Israel's part. When Ambassador Arens drops a hint that the PLO may create a situation in which Israel may have no choice but to launch a preemptive operation, the State Department spokesman says that actually there has been no material change in the situation in Lebanon (through massive reinforcement of the terrorists). Even Ambassador Lewis, who was present at the meeting with Philip Habib, was constrained to remark that the State Department statement had not been particularly clever, an understatement since the ambassador's original remark had been incomparably more incisive.

The spokesman's words were so distorted that Secretary of State Alexander Haig felt impelled to declare that he could well understand Israel's concern over the reinforcement of the terrorists in Lebanon.

The United States knew about all the information in Israel's possession when the U.S. spokesman tried to play down the reinforcement of the terrorists in southern Lebanon since the cease-fire was proclaimed on 24 July 1981.

Suffice to say that since the cease-fire, the number of artillery pieces in terrorist hands has risen from 80 to some 250. According to intelligence reports, the gist of which was published in the U.S. press, the PLO has since significantly increased its striking force: 1,000 tons of Soviet-made military equipment, 200 tons from Saudi Arabia and 100 tons from Libya, including surface-to-air missiles have reached the terrorists and the airlifts continue.

The spokesman felt impelled however, to "play it down," for such reinforcement, along with attempted incursions, could be viewed by public opinion as warranting an Israeli preemptive operation. Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi's public statement this week substantiated the truth honestly expressed by Haig: He could well understand Israel's concern.

Begin's response to Reagan's message was cutting: Do we have to offer the world evidence that Israel seeks peace?

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon asked Philip Habib: How many Jews need to be killed in a terrorist operation, for Israel to be entitled, in your view, to exercise her natural right of self-defense? Ten? Twenty dead? Maybe you will tell us what is the price we have to pay in order to "prove to the world" that we do not want war?

Even Habib clearly stated that any terrorist incursion, whether across the Jordanian border or from any other sector, constitutes an explicit violation of the cease-fire. He knows that the number of attempted incursions has been great and that Israel has not retaliated. Can he or those who send him on his missions expect Israel to take it lying down all the time?

It would seem that this very appeal by Reagan to Begin, through Habib, is proof that the United States also realizes there is a limit to Israel's patience. Hence Israel determined that on this occasion Habib would be conveying a direct message to both Riyadh and Damascus (before his departure from Israel, it was reported that he would be given the opportunity to see President al-Asad in person); namely, that the United States would not be able to hold Israel in check indefinitely as long as the present situation persists, with Syria deepening its roots in Lebanon and the terrorists concentrating forces in that specific area which threatens Israel's northern settlements.

The prime minister's words to Philip Habib were forceful: Instead of warning them, you warn us. You (the United States) are largely responsible for this "war atmosphere." Through these incessant warnings to Israel you are creating an atmosphere of war.

Begin's words were in response to the "tranquilizing" words of Philip Habib that indeed he does not believe Israel harbors warlike intentions, but that this is the prevalent impression in public opinion and in the media in the United States. Habib, just like Reagan, merely wanted Israel to improve its image....

In truth, the prime minister is generally worried about the U.S. administration's approach and he has recently found his own discreet ways of conveying to the administration his concerns about its attitude toward Israel.

The thrust of Reagan's message, grave enough in itself, is but one of many aspects of the misunderstandings which currently characterize U.S.-Israeli relations.

At this stage, it looks as if all that the United States is after is to have Israel withdraw from Sinai in an orderly fashion, so as not to tangle with Egypt, and to have Israel refrain from action against the terrorists, so as not to tangle with either Syria or Saudi Arabia, nor of course with the Soviet Union.

In this distressing atmosphere, doubts have proliferated this week about Egypt's intentions.

Namely, not only has Israel not solved its problems in Lebanon and in Judaea and Samaria, but it is still an open question as to what will happen after 26 April: "Will Egypt also join the ranks of our enemies?"

To take this line of thought is to exaggerate. Egypt has good reasons of its own not to breach the peace agreement with Israel. So, events after 26 April do not necessarily affect Israeli-Egyptian relations but Israeli-U.S. relations. The U.S. approach to the status of Jerusalem, the U.S. desire that Israel make further concessions in the autonomy talks, and Washington's objections to further settlement -- all these attest to the fact that the real controversy will resume with renewed vigor after 26 April.

The new envoy to the autonomy talks, Mr Fairbanks, who was here 2 weeks ago for get-acquainted talks, heard from all his interlocutors that Israel would never consent to autonomy as a sort of passage-way to a Palestinian state.

Suddenly, in a blend of sweet innocence and feigned naivety, he asked: How can this small thing endanger Israel?....

"This small thing" -- in other words, even if some independent Palestinian entity is established, can it endanger Israel?

This question by Fairbanks would seem to merit attention. He may not be its author....

Along the lines of the prime minister's affirmation that the United States is in effect responsible for the "war atmosphere", which the world press has recently been writing about, it may be said that the United States is also largely responsible for the impasse in the autonomy talks. The United States raised extremist demands even before Egypt, prompted by the desire to attract Jordan (and this was where it all started with Harold Saunders dashing off to Jordan, when the Camp David deliberations were done, to tell Husayn the U.S. interpretation of the Camp David accords regarding the autonomy). Hence, Egypt could not be expected to be more moderate than the United States.

At the time, Henry Kissinger warned against overloading the peace cart: Weight it down with stones and whatnot, and you will not be able to move it.

This witty remark by Kissinger just about tells the story. On the fragile cart of the Camp David accords, the United States wishes to pack virtually all its interests in the region. Through the "autonomy" the United States seeks to placate Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the PLO. It has consequently tried to dictate the nature of autonomy, one altogether unacceptable to Israel. And there it made its major blunder. It failed to appreciate the strength of Israel's opposition. Initially, it had hoped the Begin government would fall and be replaced by an Alignment government. When this miracle did not materialize, it tried to woo Israel with the "memorandum of strategic understanding," and when this did not work either, it resorted to punitive methods.

(The impression) recently has been that Washington has come to the conclusion that in dealings with Begin, penalties will not do the trick.

In reply to Reagan's last note, in which the President assured Begin that there had been no change in the U.S. position -- following Caspar Weinberger's declarations -- the prime minister wrote to him: "Your words dispel fears, and I hope the promise you have given me, will be constantly kept also in the future." The message the prime minister received this week through Philip Habib would seem to show that not all fears have been dispelled.

The answer the prime minister gave, however, to Habib's superior should also illustrate to the Washington administration that the solution to the problems of this conflict-ridden region does not lie in messages and notes remitted, exclusively to one address -- Israel.

POST VIEWS LEBANON, DIFFERENCES WITH U.S.

TA051134 Jerusalem POST in English 5 Mar 82 p 6

[Commentary by Wolf Blitzer]

[Text] In recent days, there has been a wave of disturbing speculation by many U.S. specialists in and out of government about another war between Israel and the Arab states. Judging by all this backroom talk, war clouds once again seem to be hovering over the Middle East. The main focus of attention, of course, has been Lebanon. The special U.S. envoy for the Middle East, Ambassador Philip Habib, does not appear to have had much success in easing the tensions during his current swing through the region. A collapse of the cease-fire along the Israeli-Lebanese frontier, which he helped to arrange last July, may be imminent, according to well-placed U.S. officials.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other senior Reagan administration officials are appealing strongly to Israel to exercise maximum restraint in the face of the continuing PLO military build-up in southern Lebanon, especially along the coastal region south of Beirut. Israel has provided the U.S. with extensive intelligence confirming that the PLO has indeed strengthened its position during the cease-fire. Haig himself acknowledged this during a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last Tuesday -- after his own spokesman had earlier denied it. But Haig noted that Israel, too, has strengthened its position in recent months.

As usual, secretary of defense, Caspar Weinberger, less sensitive to Israeli concerns, has gone one step further than Haig in talking publicly about an ominous Israeli military build-up along the Lebanese frontier. "I think there has been a military buildup on the borders near Lebanon, and obviously it is to our interest and to the interest of the world to do everything we can to prevent any military action or any invasion or any use of troops taking place," Weinberger said in a television interview on 28 February.

American and Israeli officials have spent a great deal of time in recent weeks exchanging views on the prospects of war in Lebanon -- and the possibility that it could even spread to Syria and Jordan. Habib's current mission was designed largely to try to calm Israeli nervousness, according to U.S. officials. Washington clearly feared that an explosion was just around the corner.

But the veteran diplomatic trouble-shooter has been hampered from the start. Syrian President al-Asad, enmeshed in his own internal chaos, is refusing to cooperate, the central Lebanese authorities are virtually impotent; Saudi Arabia, which in the past has played a helpful role as an intermediary with the PLO, is much more reluctant to get involved this time around. Because of long-standing U.S. policy, Habib himself is barred from meeting directly with the PLO. His major hope, therefore, is to work on the Israeli Government.

The new Israeli ambassador in Washington, Moshe Arens, arrived here in mid-February with a strong message: Israel is finding itself increasingly and dangerously pushed into a corner. In the end, Israel might be left with no choice but to undertake a pre-emptive strike. Arens warned that it was "only a matter of time" before the PLO provoked Israel into taking a military response. What could prevent such a development, he said, was a removal of the PLO rockets and artillery from the south.

But that does not appear likely. Indeed, U.S. officials insist that without some badly-needed behind-the-scenes Saudi support, Habib simply cannot get the job done. Unfortunately, the Saudis are too frightened to get involved right now, according to U.S. officials.

Habib is also well aware that the first anniversary of the placement of Syrian SAM surface-to-air missiles near Zahlah in Lebanon is just one month away. Those missiles were supposed to have been removed a long time ago.

In privately warning Israeli officials against initiating any military action, the U.S. has been rather blunt. While Haig has expressed America's "understanding" for Israel's predicament, he has also made it clear that barring a clearcut PLO or Syrian provocation, the United States would not support any Israeli military action. The PLO's introduction of new weaponry during the cease-fire is not regarded by the Americans as sufficient grounds for opening hostilities.

Israel, in addition, could expect more U.S. military, economic and diplomatic sanctions, including further delays in weapons deliveries if it started the shooting. In short, Israel would again find itself totally isolated in the international diplomatic community, with its best friend willing to join in a UN Security Council censure.

"U.S.-Israeli roller coaster heads down," read a front-page headline in Tuesday's Washington POST. The article underneath, by diplomatic correspondent John M. Goshko predicted that U.S.-Israeli relations "are roaring toward another sharp dip." Goshko wrote in his first sentence: "Israeli concern about U.S. policy in the Middle East has led Prime Minister Menahem Begin's government to warn the Reagan administration that it is seriously considering such drastic actions as military strikes against Lebanon and possibly Jordan.

There are some knowledgeable observers here who believe that Israel's blustery talk of pre-emptive strikes may be deliberate, designed to shake the Reagan administration into coming forward with a new, more consistent policy toward the region. To date, the administration has not demonstrated much of a concerted policy. There have been repeated zigs and zags, marked by bitter bureaucratic, personal and policy in-fighting among various governmental schools of thought. As a result, the United States has sent conflicting signals about the future direction of policy to its friends and foes alike.

Perhaps Israel's objective is to see Washington emerge from this currently tense period with a better approach -- in particular, one less dependent on pushing sophisticated weapons sales to the Arab world. The Saudi AWACS battle was very damaging. The last thing Israel wants now is a repeat performance involving improved Hawk anti-aircraft missile batteries and possible F-16 fighters for Jordan. But that U.S.-Israeli collision course appears likely in the months ahead.

Haig, a student of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, still believes that the United States can have the best of all worlds, that it can get away with a Jordan arms sale by placating Israel with new promises of military and economic assistance and diplomatic support. Kissinger often tried to buy off Israeli opposition to various U.S. policies by increasing American aid levels to Israel. Haig attempted that same pragmatic approach during the initial weeks of the AWACS battle but in the end, the Begin government refused to bite.

At the moment, everyone here is still extremely edgy about Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai next month. Washington understandably does not want to take any steps which might endanger it; neither, of course, does Egypt. U.S. officials recognize that Israel is well aware of this fact. And that is precisely why they fear that Israel might decide to move now against the PLO and possibly inflict some serious damage on the Syrian Army in the process. After the withdrawal from Sinai, Israeli leverage will be sharply reduced.

Weinberger, moreover, has already informed the American public that Israel's loudly expressed concern about additional U.S. arms sales to the Arabs is not altogether genuine.

"I think Israel's margin of superiority is very great and the President and the administration are pledged to maintain that margin of superiority," he said on NBC's "Today" show. But that's clearly not how Israeli officials assess the shifting arms balance. The potential seeds of serious U.S.-Israeli differences stem from that different assessment.

MA'ARIV VIEWS SYRIAN OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON

TA051400 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Mar 82 p 15

[Commentary by Moshe Zaql]

[Text] During the week in which French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Israel, the United Nations decided to increase the French expeditionary force in the UNIFIL. This administrative decision was preceded by a Security Council resolution in which the Soviet Union, Syria's ally, accepted the expansion of the UN force despite the fact that its own proposal to expand UNIFIL's field of control, including the area under Major Haddad's control, did not gain support by the Security Council.

The Syrians are interested in increasing the UN force in Lebanon because they want to use its aid in their attempts to expand their control over Lebanon. They cannot carry out their plot with military force because they need it to suppress such rebellions as that in Hamah. They prefer to annex Lebanon in a quieter way -- through political pressure. There will soon be presidential elections in Lebanon and the presence of the Syrian Army there increases Hafiz al-Asad's ability to maneuver in the election of a president convenient for him who will work in Beirut in accordance with directives from Damascus.

The long-term significance of this Syrian expansion worries Israel but over the last few months Israel has preferred to concentrate on the problem of the 300 artillery pieces and Katyushas that the terrorists have accumulated in Lebanon, which represent an immediate problem, and not focus on the dangers beyond those artillery pieces threatening a change in the status quo on our northern border.

As strange as this appears, it is not only Bashir al-Jumayyil, the commander of the Phalangists, but also Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO leader, who are opposed to Syria taking control of Lebanon. The PLO leader fears that if Syria takes control of Lebanon, it will be the end of the state-within-a-state that he is establishing in that country.

A weak divided Lebanon is a convenient hothouse for terrorist activity. The Syrians' control of the Az-Zahrani and Litani regions could paralyze the 300 terrorist artillery pieces as the terrorist activity from the Syrian border has been paralyzed. Accordingly, 'Arafat is now working against the Syrian interests in Lebanon and because of this activity he is now under constant fear of a Syrian attempt to assassinate him.

This week Syria invited the PLO leaders to Damascus, but Yasir 'Arafat did not go. He is afraid. In fact, he began his activity in Fatah as a branch of Syrian intelligence, but at present he is working against the Syrian goal of taking control of all of Lebanon. From a certain perspective then, there is an overlapping of Israeli and PLO opposition to Syrian control of Lebanon. Matters have reached the point where 'Arafat is taking advantage of the Israeli threat of possible action to block off Syrian expansionism in order to recruit the aid of Arab countries against Hafiz al-Asad's plots.

Daily we hear from Beirut and Tyre warnings about a widescale military action Israel is planning in southern Lebanon. On the surface, 'Arafat is alerting Arab countries against Israel. In fact, he is trying to recruit pan-Arab aid against a complete Syrian consolidation in Lebanon, which could eliminate 'Arafat's rule of the various enclaves in Lebanon, just as these enclaves were at one time destroyed in Jordan.

The Syrians too are not sitting back with folded arms. Their front organizations are now trying to bring down 'Arafat, who is at the moment interested in a cease-fire in southern Lebanon because he fears an Israeli retaliatory action. Therefore we are witness various provocations being carried out by tiny terrorist organizations working with Syrian financing. It is not inconceivable that Al-Asad is interested in Israel striking the blow for him at 'Arafat's head, 'Arafat who is rebelling against his overlordship.

Strictly speaking, there was room for a pointed Israeli clarification: What is preferable, the immediate consideration of calm on the border that 'Arafat is now guaranteeing by force of the cease-fire that was achieved through the mediation of Saudi Arabia's Fahd and the United States' Habib; or for Syria to be responsible for the border and preserve its calm, just as it is being scrupulous about it in its own territory by force of the disengagement agreement in the Golan Heights.

There are two sides to this. Stretching out the border between the Syrian Army and Israel necessarily brings with it many dangers from the strategic viewpoint, although the elimination of the PLO strongpoint in southern Lebanon also has positive aspects. Matters require a clarification and explanation over and beyond the time those responsible for Israeli policy and security can now find in between settlers from the Rafah approaches and the visit by President Mitterrand.

We do not know what was said in President Reagan's letter that special envoy Philip Habib took to President al-Asad in Damascus. Despite the arrogant remarks by the president of Syria, who declared that he would not meet with the U.S. envoy, he did receive him and the letter from President Reagan. The president of Syria may want to lull the United States, to conduct negotiations with it, and in the meantime, prepare the "quiet annexation" of Lebanon through the elections, while the Syrian Army sits in Beirut and controls the entrance to the parliament building where the next president of Lebanon is to be elected.

In any event, the U.S. administration's attitude toward Israel in the affair of Lebanon -- including the latest appeal by President Reagan to Prime Minister Menahem Begin via Philip Habib, in which he cast doubts on Israel's peaceful intentions -- proves that Washington is not getting down to the depths of the Lebanese complications. It was no coincidence that Syria has advanced step by step to date in its process of expansionism in Lebanon. It examined the situation very carefully and feared an Israeli reaction, and during the first stages of its penetration of Lebanon, it was helped by U.S. mediation which laid down the "red line" Syria would not cross.

Israel is a deterrent force to Syria's complete control of Lebanon. If the United States tries to restrict Israel's freedom of action as a deterrent force in Lebanon, it will then harm its Christian allies in Lebanon and will indirectly harm Lebanon's independence. The problem of Lebanon is not only one of great quantities of weapons flowing in to the terrorists -- a phenomenon that the United States sometimes confirms and sometimes denies -- but also the problem of the plots Syria is planning against the very future of this country.

MINISTER SHARON, EGYPT'S 'ALI END SINAI TOUR

TA081210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali ended their joint tour along the Israeli-Egyptian border a few minutes ago. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the two officials flew over the border in the area of Tabah near Elat following the Egyptian foreign minister's landing at the 'Ezyon airfield. Later they flew in two helicopters over Rafah.

DEMARCATON OF BORDER AT RAFAH CONCLUDED

TA081604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] The demarcation of the border in Rafah has been concluded.

The surveyors planted stakes along a line on both sides of the town and the partitioning of Rafah will take place without destroying houses or evacuating residences. [sentence as heard] This was said by the commander, Southern Command, Hayim Erez, to our military correspondent Shu'el Tal, after talks between Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Egypt's foreign minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali. 'Ali will be leaving Israel this evening by way of the Etam airbase. In the afternoon he was a guest of Ari'el Sharon at the latter's farm.

Further Details

TA081845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] The demarcation of the border with Egypt at Rafah has been completed without having to destroy houses or evacuate inhabitants. This was agreed on by Defense Minister Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ali. A report by Qol Yisra'el's military reporter, Shum'el Tal, is read in the studio:

The two men toured the border area from Rafah to Elat. The demarcation in Rafah, which is being partitioned, will be completed without having to destroy homes. The fence will reach the building and end on a wall, continuing on a different part of the structure. The roof will also be demarcated, and so on all along the line. Yards, streets and houses will be divided, but Israel will not build walls inside houses or block up windows.

A proposal came up to make gates in the fence that would allow civilians to move from one part of Rafah to the other. The buffer zone will be 40 meters wide. On the Israeli side of Rafah the population will total 60,000 and on the Egyptian side about 10,000. The commander of the Southern command, Maj Gen Hayim Erez said there were no differences about the border area and, as soon as the decision was made, the border would be marked out and fenced. The army would insure that the inhabitants would not suffer, nor be evacuated.

Sharon and 'Ali did not get out of their helicopter at Rafah, but hovered over the area up to the sea, looking at the frontier from the air. Recently, the Rafah inhabitants have been exchanging land and property in large-scale transactions between those who will stay on the Egyptian side and those who will be left in Israel. In the Elat area, on the other hand, no agreement has yet been reached. There are differences over the demarcation line, and over whether Rafi Nelson's holiday village will be in Israel or not.

Press Comments

TA090711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem POST says yesterday's talks between Minister Sharon and Minister 'Ali contributed toward real progress on pending issues. If matters are settled by an agreement as early as this month, this will be a good sign for the future. Thus, if the first optimistic accounts of yesterday's talks are borne out, another important pillar for the future of the peace will have been set in place.

DAVAR believes that Rafah will not be like Jerusalem in the years between 1948 and 1967 -- A Berlin on the Egyptian-Israeli border. The division of Rafah is a recipe for bitterness from both sides, because, for example, of illegal border crossings with either a criminal or security motivation. But under the circumstances in which the Rafah issue has been left waiting until the end of the negotiations about the arrangements of the IDF withdrawal from Sinai, there may have been no other choice. The directive to the defense establishment to avoid unnecessary suffering for the residents as well as damage to property should be appreciated. Let us hope the same will be implemented also on the Egyptian side.

But even the best implementation will not be able to prevent the feeling that shortsightedness and inability, as the paper puts it, brought about, in the years since the 6-day war, the magnification of a problem from an earlier era.

HATZOFE writes that the settlement reached by General 'Ali and by Minister Sharon proves that a dialogue can be maintained and agreements reached when there is good will and no extreme insistence about a infinitesimal point on the border. By the same spirit an agreement should be found also over the other points of dispute regarding the border demarcation. In any event, an agreement should be reached now, without waiting for the withdrawal date.

AL-ANBA' says the accomplishment of the border demarcation in Rafah is to some degree alleviating the apprehensions prevalent in many a heart, in view of Egypt's stubbornness over marginal issues. It should be hoped that in the wake of the Rafah settlement, a solution will be found for the rest of the problems, before the final withdrawal from Sinai.

SHARON CHARGES ARABS WITH 'ENORMOUS' ARMS BUILDUP

TA081406 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 8 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] Israel has had to stop the arms race and does not intend to add even a single tank, plane or cannon to its army in the 1980's. This was said by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday during a ceremony in which he signed an agreement ending a labor dispute in the Defense Ministry.

In contrast, the Arab countries are conducting enormous military buildups, Minister Sharon noted. This is on a scale unknown in the past. Arms are supplied to them through grants or through loans with favorable terms. The arms flow into the Arab world both from the East and West and the United States is becoming a major factor as far as the supply of arms to the region -- especially to the Arab countries -- is concerned, the defense minister added. As for Israel's need for equipment, the defense minister said that we will have to replace old equipment. We have hundreds of pieces of outdated equipment that will have to be replaced by more modern ones, especially since the Arab countries today receive the most modern and sophisticated arms.

Sharon added that we have announced the stopping of our armaments race in clear terms but that we have adopted measures to improve the quality of weapons as well as stating clearly the [political or military] developments in the region that Israel will not accept. We reached the conclusion that we should enhance Israel's deterrence so that the Arab countries will fear entangling themselves in a war with Israel. I proposed that the defense budget be decreased. I have for years argued that the State of Israel cannot maintain its past level of defense spending if it wants to continue to build itself, develop, educate its people, close gaps [between the various communities] and settle the land. These goals compel us to increase efficiency and productivity, to look for new methods in organizing, training and tactics. The agreement with the workers ends the Defense Ministry reorganization conflict resulting from the defense minister's plan to merge various military and civilian branches. This was opposed by the Defense Ministry workers and only part of the reorganization will be carried out now.

DEFENSE MINISTER ARI'ELSHARON TO VISIT PARIS

TA081308 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by Eliyahu Maissi from Paris]

[Text] The French-Israeli rapprochement will soon be reflected in a visit by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to France, sources in the French Defense Ministry have reported.

A visit of the French defense minister to Israel is not planned in the near future. The joint French-Israeli economic committee will discuss investments and economic cooperation, but not trade issues dealt with by the European Common Market in Brussels. The purchase of a nuclear power station and of arms from France will necessitate negotiations at government level and will, therefore, presumably come on the agenda during Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to France in May.

BERMAN DISCUSSES PURCHASE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

TA090628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Energy Minister Yitzhaq Berman confirmed that negotiations with France regarding the purchase of nuclear reactors have not reached an advanced stage and no agreement about an actual purchase can be talked about. The minister was speaking with our correspondent Yon Feder. He pointed out that Israel is conducting negotiations for the purchase of nuclear powerplants in several other countries.

FRANCE DENIES COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS REACTOR SALE

TA081720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] France has denied that the joint French-Israeli committee will discuss the sale of a nuclear reactor and French arms to Israel. A spokesman for France's External Relations Ministry has said that Israel's request to obtain a nuclear electricity-generating reactor is in the preliminary stage of professional discussion and is not yet ready to be discussed by the joint committee. The question of the supply of arms was not raised at all during the visit by President Mitterrand in Israel, according to the French External Relations Ministry.

MITTERRAND VISIT SEEN AS 'VERY SUCCESSFUL'

TA071042 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Sources in Jerusalem have said that inviting Prime Minister Menahem Begin to pay a reciprocal visit to France was not raised during President Mitterrand's visit to Israel because Begin made plain several times -- and this message was conveyed to the Elysee Palace -- that he is not interested in going to Paris on an official visit which would end in the publication of a joint communique that would reveal the differences of opinion on the Palestinian issue. Now that a dialogue has opened, however, between France and Israel in the wake of Mitterrand's visit, Jerusalem may begin contacts to arrange an official visit to Paris by Begin in which the lack of agreement on the Palestinian issue would be bypassed by not issuing a joint communique, as was the case in Mitterrand's visit.

Jerusalem has expressed great satisfaction with the results of Mitterrand's visit. It noted the absolute change in relations, compared to when the previous government was in power in France. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was invited to pay an official visit by his French counterpart, Claude Cheysson. The visit will take place at the beginning of May, after the Passover holiday. The Israeli-French committee on cooperation in the fields of economy, technology, development and science will convene at the end of April in Paris after teams of experts from both sides have drawn plans for cooperation. At approximately the same time, the joint committee on cultural affairs will convene in Israel.

During his talks with President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Menahem Begin raised the possibility that France would sell a nuclear reactor for electricity production to Israel. Shamir raised this topic in his talks with Cheysson.

Begin and Shamir argued that, among other things, France is one of the most advanced countries in Europe in this field. The French paid very close attention to Israeli arguments and did not object to the very notion of supplying a French reactor to Israel. Talks on this subject will continue.

As recalled, in the news conference in Jerusalem the French president said that France would not supply material enabling the development of nuclear weapons to any country in the world. Jerusalem interpreted this remark as being directed at Iraq, namely, that France would not rebuild the Iraqi reactor if it discerned intentions to produce nuclear weapons. It was pointedly noted that Israel is only asking for a reactor to produce electricity.

During the visit the possibility was also raised that France may help Israel establish diplomatic relations with various African countries in light of its good relations with French-speaking countries in the African Continent. It has been learned that practical discussions were held on this matter and that the French expressed their willingness to help Israel. The French president brought along his adviser on African affairs, Guy Penne, who conferred twice with the director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Kimche. As is known, Kimche attributes great importance to resuming relations with Africa and since he entered his post this issue has been given topmost priority at the Foreign Ministry.

Jerusalem last night concluded that President Mitterrand's visit to Israel had been very successful. Indeed, there were differences of opinion on the Palestinian issue but this came as no surprise. Israel was aware of President Mitterrand's views on this issue and it did not expect him to change them. Beyond this, however, the following points were positively noted:

-- In his address to the Knesset, President Mitterrand did not mention the Golan Heights Law although France is opposed to the annexation of the Golan.

-- Although in his speech to the Knesset President Mitterrand spoke about a Palestinian state, when he referred to Jerusalem he did not make the connection between the Palestinian state and any political dispute.

-- President Mitterrand's statements about the friendship of the French people toward Israel was particularly significant because they were made less than 1 month after the anti-Israeli resolution at the UN General Assembly. The statements themselves constituted a rejection of the General Assembly resolution.

-- President Mitterrand's warm remarks about the need for friendship between France and Israel, although valuable on their own merit, were especially significant because of various decisions made to proceed with the French-Israeli dialogue.

DAVAR VIEWS PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S VISIT

TA051113 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Mar 82 p 13

[Commentary by Daniyel Bloch]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand's visit is probably the only state visit to Israel not made on the basis of the vital interests of the guest or of his country. Heads of African and Asian countries who visited us from the 1950's to the beginning of the 1970's were interested in Israeli aid. President Nixon wanted to use his visit to improve his image, which had been marred by the Watergate affair. Anwar as-Sadat wanted to break through the psychological barrier to peace. And Jimmy Carter was trying to save the peace agreement as well as his personal prestige.

Francois Mitterrand has no special interests. His personal prestige is uncontested.

He has another 6 years in office ahead of him and if he wants another term he will not need the Jewish vote, which is still marginal in France and only has an appreciable influence in a limited number of electoral areas. Neither is there any special French interest requiring a state visit by the French president to Jerusalem. We can say therefore that Francois Mitterrand's sincere feeling of friendship for Israel is the basis for his visit. This friendship originates from a profound personal awareness and a basic moral view that has typified French socialism's attitude toward Israel, Zionism and Jewry over the years, from the time of Jean Jaures and Leon Blum, via the golden age of Guy Mollet and up to Francois Mitterrand.

On the surface, it is paradoxical that a Socialist president who has Communists in his government has come for a visit to Israel, where a rightist-nationalist coalition is in power, while during the period of rightist power in France, relations between President Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Menahem Begin were cool, not to say hostile. Mitterrand's attitude teaches us that Israel's chances in Europe are better under socialist regimes than under rightist ones. And, although there may be exceptions, generally speaking we have had good relations with the French Socialists throughout the years. There is no doubt that no small amount of our deterrent defense capability in both conventional and nonconventional fields originates in the special friendly relations between the Government of Israel and the Socialist Government of France. The historic victory in the 6-day war would not have been possible had it not been for the large amounts of French weapons we received during the preceding decade.

Friendship between countries and leaders does not mean definite agreement on everything or blind agreement by one side with the actions and views of the other. It is already clear that in talks held in Israel by the French president, his ministers and advisers, there was great understanding on the bilateral issues that interest both countries: economic and financial ties, security ties beginning to renew their previous period's good days, scientific links, culture and so on. Furthermore, France, which for many years has demonstrated a hostile attitude toward Israel's demands of the EEC, is now showing greater understanding and is supporting some of Israel's demands. France is also prepared to help Israel in the event of its being harmed by the possible incorporation of Spain into the EEC. On this matter there may be identical interests between France and Israel, because the French also fear a setback for their agriculture and some of their industry as a result of the Spanish competition.

All the achievements that will be gained in these fields are to be welcomed and they are a great improvement compared with the Israeli-French relations that weakened and deteriorated since President de Gaulle expressed his hostile approach after the 6-day war. In Mitterrand's speeches in Israel there was a noticeable effort to get away from De Gaulle's hostility, which even took on an anti-Semitic tone during his last years. Mitterrand says of the Jewish people that they are "noble and proud people," compared with De Gaulle's remarks about a "domineering and arrogant people." Mitterrand emphasized his friendship and sympathy for the Jewish people, for the Zionist movement and for the State of Israel. But this does not stop him from expressing his unequivocal view on the Palestinian issue. When he defines this as a friendly bit of advice and stresses that there will be no European initiative or attempt to impose a solution, but the peoples of the area themselves must come to agreement and negotiations, the remarks are made within a legitimate framework of relations between friendly nations. This is a new approach by the countries of the West to the issue of the Middle East conflict: not an imposed solution and not hostile pressure, but an attempt to settle misunderstandings through friendly persuasion.

Mitterrand, who did not come here out of an immediate, vital interest, did, however, contribute toward shaping his image as an important international statesman capable of morally, politically and practically influencing what occurs in the world arena. His influence is founded on a recognition of France's importance as a leading nation in Europe whose views are heard in the international establishment.

Mitterrand's message is clear: In his time, French-Israeli relations will be most friendly from all points of view, although there is a dispute over the Palestinian issue. This friendly message has a sting in its tail from the viewpoint of the Government of Israel. Its significance is that in its attitude toward the Palestinians Israel is completely isolated and even its greatest friends do not support it. The president of France expresses the consensus of the friends of Israel and his words undoubtedly also express the genuine position of the United States, where spokesmen for the administration are not yet saying the same things in public, but they will certainly be heard more and more after 26 April.

Mitterrand's words open the coming battle over Israeli policy: the battle to find a reasonable solution to the Palestinian problem, one that will be acceptable to our friends in the world as a whole and moderate elements in the Arab world. This will be a prolonged campaign, and not an easy one. But any wise Israeli statesman must feel that it would be better for us to reach a reasonable solution during a period in which friends of Israel are in power in the West and not put off the solution to a period that could be far worse.

It is important to remember Mitterrand's remarks that French and other's interest in a solution to the Palestinian problem also springs from the fear that an insoluble problem in such a sensitive area could jeopardize the peace of the entire world and cause Soviet intervention which would also jeopardize Europe.

As a first conclusion from Mitterrand's visit we can say that this has been a most friendly visit presaging a change in Israeli-French relations and improving Israel's international status. At the same time, however, we cannot ignore the political message of the visit. This message serves as a cover for Mitterrand as regards the Arab world, but it also expresses a trend that will affect Israel's political situation in the future.

MORE GOLAN DRUZE ASK FOR IDENTITY CARDS

TA080534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] A number of Golan Druze clergymen have recently received Israeli identity cards. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that 260 Golan Druze already have Israeli identity cards. Last year about 400 Golan Druze received Israeli identity cards but returned them.

GOLAN DRUZE MODERATES URGE END TO STRIKE

TA081438 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] A group of moderate Golan Druze has succeeded in passing a resolution urging an end to the strike and approving the receiving of Israeli identity cards. A similar attempt failed a few days ago. Some Golan notables also participated in the meeting in Majdal Shams at which the resolution was passed. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, reports that today Druze inhabitants continued to ask the Interior Ministry branch in Mas'adah for identity cards.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IN BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH

TA081445 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Besides Nabulus, there were disruptions in other places in Judaea and Samaria today. In Bethlehem, university students left the campus for the center of town where they were dispersed by security forces. The heads of the student union were summoned for questioning. In Ramallah, school classes were disrupted and military cars were stoned.

LIBYAAL-QADHDHAFI SET TO VISIT AUSTRIA 10 MAR

LD090750 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Mar (JANA) -- A source at the people's committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau announced in Tripoli last night that all Libyans living abroad, whether because of their job specialization or for other reasons, will be given the opportunity to meet with the leader of the revolution, Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, during his official cordial visit to Austria beginning on the tenth of this month.

Through this meeting, Libyan brothers living abroad will be able to discuss and examine the circumstances and problems which have prevented them from returning to the homeland. In this way, they will find ways to overcome and to deal with their problems in order to facilitate their return to jamahiriyah so that they can participate in their country's [word indistinct] development and changes.

JANA has learned that agreement has been reached with the Austrian authorities to provide all necessary arrangements for Libyans living abroad to enter Austria without any difficulties so that they will be able to meet the leader and present their problems with total frankness and clarity.

JANA COMMENTS ON SAUDI ARABIA POLICIES

LD062124 Tripoli JANA in English 1835 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Mar (JANA) -- The political editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY condemned the role led by the Saudi rulers, by order of America, in the Arabian Gulf region.

He said: Saudi Arabia is exercising all forms of pressure on Arabian Gulf countries in order to assume a position of total hegemony under which no other voice can be heard... Saudi Arabia sees this hegemonial role as a vital part of its strategy of responding to American goals and demands in the region. This ugly role overtly creates excuses for U.S. intervention and is designed to make others succumb to U.S. strategy. The Saudi rulers are fighting to the death for maintaining this hireling role and defending U.S. (?policy). They are not interested in defending the interests of the poverty-stricken and oppressed Saudi people. Their only worry is their own narrow personal interests, pursuits and pleasures. Therefore, the satisfaction of American interests is the core of the policies pursued by the U.S.-educated Saudi rulers who speak either for Washington or Tel Aviv.

These policies are in direct contradiction with Arab goals, including the liberation of Palestine and the regaining of occupied Arab lands. The most extreme manifestation of this policy is the extortion and overt pressures exerted by the Saudi rulers in a bid to prepare the political ground for a capitulationist settlement which the Americans will approve of.

Saudi Arabia is thus attempting to impose hegemony over Arabian Gulf countries so that oil cannot be used as a weapon in serving Arab interests. The Saudi rulers are horrified at the idea that Arabian Gulf oil might be used as an effective weapon in the Arab nation's civilisational struggle with Israel.

Stemming from its aggressive strategy, especially in the oil-rich Arabian Gulf, the United States has been ceaselessly working for letting its regional agents act as policemen, ready to deal with any movement that seeks to undermine American interests...

To this end, the United States installed the former shah of Iran in this role, yet the shah fell under the blows of the Iranian people. Then it attempted to groom As-Sadat for this position. He, too, was taken care of by patriotic Egyptian freedom fighters... Now, the United States has concentrated its attention on the Saudis to assume this role, and to exert pressure on Arabian Gulf countries to isolate them from the Arab nation's mainstream by subjecting them to American imperialism.

History shows that peoples always emerge victorious... All hirelings installed by America to serve her interests cannot successfully (?resist) the wind of revolution and peoples seeking freedom and salvation.

The fate of the Saudi rulers who have chosen subservience will not be much better than that meted out to the shah, to As-Sadat, to Haile Selassie and to other hirelings crushed by their people's revolutions...

Scorns Production Cut

LDO71418 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] A statement issued by the Saudi Royal Court yesterday announced that Saudi Arabia has decided to cut its oil production this month, March, to 7.5 million barrels daily.

The JANA political editor commented on the so-called Saudi Arabian decision: Most certainly, Saudi Arabia has lost all credibility with itself and with the others. Lying has become a daily behavior and practice aimed at diverting attention from the efforts it exerts to serve American strategy and to bolster the strategic oil stockpiles of the U.S. administration.

This is not the first time Saudi Arabia announces such an illusionary cut. Last September, it announced that it had decided to reduce its oil production from 10.5 million barrels daily to 9.5 million barrels daily. Later, on 1 November 1981, it alleged that it had decided to cut production to 8.5 million barrels per day.

The new Saudi statement on cutting oil production to 7.5 million barrels per day, the editor added, is due to Saudi Arabia's fear of Arab and Islamic reactions. Under a thick blanket of lies and allegations, the newly announced cut is intended to absorb these reactions.

He affirmed that Saudi Arabia's oil production should not exceed 2 million barrels a day, which is sufficient to meet its needs, particularly as the revenue from the oil is not spent on the Saudi people but is distributed among the princes.

The JANA political editor added that Saudi Arabia's measures, which intended to create a world oil glut, was in response to U.S. demands and the interests of Israel and its armament. All the Saudi rulers care about, he said, is to appease the United States. The Saudi flooding of the oil markets with Saudi oil is meant to achieve two objectives: to solve the economic crisis from which the U.S. administration suffers and to increase the income of the princes.

The Saudi rulers care nothing about anything else. They don't care if the Libyan people, the Algerian people, the Nigerian people or any other people suffer as a result. This is a fact which rises above all argument. All statements to the contrary are only part of the policy of lies and fabrications pursued by Saudi Arabia to appease the United States and to help extend the arm of Zionism.

SUDANASSEMBLY DENOUNCES AL-QADHDHAFI STATEMENT

JN081811 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar (SUNA) -- The Sudanese National People's Assembly denounced strongly today Al-Qadhdhafi's statement against Sudan and condemned its policy that aimed at interfering in Sudan internal affairs and other brother states to erupt chaos and split among the Arab nations.

In a statement issued today, the People's Assembly confirmed the stand of the Sudanese people with the command of its revolution that has been working to achieve the goals of the Sudanese people in building and development besides raising the flags of Arab solidarity. The assembly expressed its denunciation to the malicious lies being launched by Libyan ruler against Saudi Arabia. The assembly confirmed its solidarity with Syrian people and all brother states that become a target for Libyan sabotage campaigns.

The assembly also called the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity to adopt positive measures to support the Arab and African lines and secure the Arab and African nations against the conspiracies being plotted to overthrow their unity by these irresponsible acts.

The assembly further assured that the Sudanese different sectors including its armed forces could repulse any aggression against its security.

The statement also expressed astonishment over the statements issued by Libyan ruler than indicated once again his intention to interfere in Sudan affairs by different means to disturb its stability and security. The statement issued today by the assembly referred to the invasion plotted against Sudan in 1976 and the recent attempts of damage and sabotage.

The assembly controller Mukhtar al-Asam called up on the Sudanese people to make their voice loud enough to be heard by Libya. He also assured that Sudan will be a cemetery to Al-Qadhdhafi if he does not make up mind.

Chief of security and defence committee in the People's Assembly Col Abu Bakr 'Abd ar-Rahim delivered the committee statement describing Al-Qadhdhafi statements as an apparent challenge to the Arab and Islamic nation and an attempt to destroy the Arab unity for the benefit of communist, Zionist and colonization.

Col 'Abd ar-Rahim hailed Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and United Arab Emirates for their concern over Sudan.

In his statement before the People's Assembly Col Abu Bakr condemned the communist-backed policy of Al-Qadhdhafi that directed to hit the independent peoples in Chad, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon. He said that it had been better for Al-Qadhdhafi to condemn Soviet invasion to Afghani Moslim people instead of exporting destructive arms and plots.

Chief of the Foreign Affairs Committee Dr Malik Husayn reviewed a political analysis to Libyan ruler statements during last year against Sudan. Dr Husayn said that when Al-Qadhdhafi came to power he launched a bitter attack against the Marxist while he is now carrying out all communist plans. This statement was delivered before the People's Assembly in his session today.

The chief of the Foreign Affairs Committee made reference to Al-Qadhdhafi interference in the international political arena, pointing out his support to the Irish rebels and his intervention in Italy's and Cyprus internal affairs.

At the time the Sudanese working in Libya packed up and prepared themselves to come home, Al-Qadhdhafi ridiculously announced that armies of Sudanese expatriates were mobilized along the frontiers to invade Sudan, added Mr Husayn. We are prepared to confront Al-Qadhdhafi and fight him at all levels, concluded Mr Husayn.

A number of People's Assembly members took the platform and reviewed the statement issued by Al-Qadhdhafi saying that he was used to erupt disturbances throughout the Arab and African states. The members assured that all states that condemned Libyan policy hailed Sudan stance to put right the Arab and African relations for achieving peace. The members of the People's Assembly indicated that Al-Qadhdhafi statement was regarded as a violation to the UN Charter and human rights.

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT NUMAYRI'S ACTIVITIES

Inspects Army Units

EA051926 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president and supreme commander of the people's armed forces, continued his inspection visits to the military areas of Khartoum Governorate. This morning, he met officers, NCO's and men of the Jabal Awliya area.

At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency hailed the 3 March anniversary when Sudan achieved national unity after years of fighting and destruction in which the people lost the best of their sons and the [words indistinct] of their capabilities were lost [words indistinct] and which were (?intended) to turn to construction.

He said it was one of God's blessings that on this day we stopped the bloodshed of that war and the evils and sins it created and thereafter made progress toward building one homeland [words indistinct]. His excellency added: Since I assumed command of the armed forces, I have striven to issue directives connected with the method and course of our lives as individuals in the armed forces and as citizens. I therefore stress the necessity of paying attention to a sound spiritual upbringing and working under the guidance of the holy Koran before paying attention to arms and equipment.

Appoints Elections Committee

JN061526 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Mar (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued today a republican decree forming the technical committee for the election of the Southern Region People's Assembly under the chairmanship of Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd al-Hafiz. The committee includes five members.

Meets With Cabinet

JN071701 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Mar (SUNA) -- At 1000 today the Cabinet held its regular session presided over by President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. The Cabinet began the meeting with a reassurance about the security situation in light of the report presented by Third Vice President Maj Gen 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib.

The Cabinet reviewed the intensive activity carried out recently by the ministerial committee for the economic sector and the resolutions and recommendations arrived at on a variety of matters concerning economic action in light of the report presented by the finance and economic planning minister.

The Cabinet also reviewed the report presented by the minister of internal affairs concerning the results of the meetings of the Arab interior ministers conference held in Riyadh recently and the role of the Sudanese delegation during the meetings and contacts carried out by the minister during the conference.

The minister of state for economic and planning then informed the Cabinet of the results of the meetings of the African governors of the World Bank which recently were held in Dakar and the role played by the Sudanese delegation in the conference.

The Cabinet also reviewed the report presented by the health minister concerning the results and resolutions of the seventh session of Arab health ministers meetings held in San'a', the activity of the Sudanese delegation and the contacts carried out by the minister during the meetings.

The Cabinet then reviewed the report presented by the minister of state for cooperation, commerce and supply on the discussions held recently with officials in Saudi Arabia concerning the export of maize and cattle, the means necessary to promote commercial cooperation between the two fraternal countries and the minister's contacts there regarding developments in Sudan.

After a lengthy debate on all aspects of the reviewed subjects and reports, the Cabinet meeting was adjourned at 1200.

INDUSTRY MINISTER CONFERS WITH USSR AMBASSADOR

JN071803 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Mar (SUNA) -- The minister of industry, Muhammad al-Bashir al-Waqi, yesterday met with the USSR ambassador in Khartoum to get acquainted with aspects of bilateral relations and cooperation.

On behalf of his government, his excellency the ambassador presented suggestions for various projects in which his government would like to cooperate with the Sudanese Government. These 19 projects include 13 industrial projects.

TUNISIA

TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH LIBYA

LD051644 Tunis TAP in English 1415 GMT 5 Mar 82

["pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, 5 Mar (TAP) -- As part of the resumption of Tuniso-Libyan relations, a road transport agreement has been concluded on Thursday in Tunis between the two countries.

Under this agreement, 3 regular lines will shortly be operational and the first one will be served at the rate of two trips per week. The agreement provides for Tunisia's National Company of Rural and Trunk Transport (SNTRI) for the following trips:

- Tunis-Tripoli-Tunis
- Sousse-Tripoli-Sousse
- Safaqis-Tripoli-Safaqis

And for Libya's general passenger transport company:

- Tripoli-Tunis-Tripoli
- Tripoli-Sousse-Tripoli
- Tripoli-Safaqis-Tripoli.

PLO'S QADDUMI ARRIVES FOR TALKS 5 MAR

LD061350 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Tunis, 6 Mar (TAP) -- Head of the PLO Executive Committee Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Tunis last night from Algeria on a working visit during which he will hold talks with Tunisian officials.

WESTERN SAHARASTATEMENT ON OAU ADMISSION, WAR WITH MOROCCO

LD082116 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] The SDAR Council of Ministers issued a statement today following a meeting held yesterday. In the first paragraph of the statement, the council expressed appreciation for the SDAR's admission into the OAU. At the same time, it expressed the Saharan people's thanks and gratitude to the majority of the African states for their past and present support for their struggle for the triumph of their just issue.

The statement noted that the OAU has proved to have a sense of responsibility and the ability to defend its unity which is based on respect for its charter. It added that history has established that our continent is aware of the dangers manifested in the expansionist policy which seeks to destroy the organization. It affirmed that peace (?is based) above all on respect for national independence and sovereignty.

The SDAR Council of Ministers added that the intransigence and adherence of the invading Moroccan regime to the policy of fait accompli for 6 years has not led the implementation committee anywhere except to its current dilemma and that those who are against implementing the provisions of the OAU Charter cannot play a positive role in the search for a just solution to the decolonization issue.

The SDAR Council of Ministers, noting the attitude of President Sekou Toure, his attack on the Saharan people and his support for the Moroccan expansionist regime, whose spokesman he has become, thinks that he (?should be dropped) from membership in the OAU implementation committee.

The statement noted that the SDAR Council of Ministers recalls that the attitude of the SDAR Government remains the same as that stated by the Executive Committee of the Polisario Front on 16 February 1982, namely, that the Nairobi meeting failed because of Morocco's intransigence and the collusion of some sides in the implementation committee with Morocco.

The statement stressed that the SDAR is at war with Morocco and will not negotiate with anyone else for peace because such negotiations will be doomed to failure. After expressing the conviction that SDAR's admission to the OAU will contribute to finding a just and final solution to the problem, it called on the Moroccan Government to start direct and immediate negotiations with the SDAR Government to put an end to the war.

In conclusion, the statement observed that this is an historical opportunity to be given to the Moroccan Government instead of continuing its policy aimed at splitting the OAU.

ETHIOPIAFOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES FRENCH RELATIONS

NC071039 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 7 Mar 82

[By Seyoum Ayele]

[Text] Asmara, northern Ethiopia, 7 Mar (AFP) -- Ethiopia is prepared to heal the breach in its relations with France provided the Socialist government there respects the charter principles of the United Nations, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Felleke Gedle-Giorgis said here today.

"We are ready to cooperate but it remains for France to understand Ethiopia again," Colonel Felleke told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an exclusive interview in the Eritrean capital.

He was discussing the sudden deterioration in relations between France and Ethiopia which this week culminated in the expulsion from Addis Ababa within 48 hours of ten French diplomats and their families. The expulsion order, which reduced the French diplomatic staff by half, was provoked by a statement from the French Socialist Party on February 25 calling for the "withdrawal of foreign troops" from Eritrea as well as for recognition of Eritrean rights to self-determination. The party position coincided with the launching by the Ethiopian authorities of a multi-purpose campaign for Eritrea aimed at crushing the 20-year secessionist rebellion in the province and rebuilding its war-shattered economy.

Colonel Felleke defended the campaign -- codenamed red star -- essentially as a "humanitarian" effort, designed to stop the guerrillas from impeding the government's reconstruction programmes.

The deterioration in relations between France and Ethiopia was first expressed in a violent attack against the French Socialists in a public speech by Ethiopia's number two, Fikre Selassie Wodgeress, in Addis Ababa on March 2.

The expulsion order against the French, a step taken by the Ethiopian Government only against the United States in 1977, was greeted with considerable surprise.

"We believe we have acted correctly. This is a new neocolonialist attitude of France," Colonel Felleke explained.

Asked why the action against France -- virtually the only Western power that had maintained cordial relations with Ethiopia throughout the years of the revolution -- had been so sudden and violent, the minister replied: "No other power has so interfered in the internal affairs of Ethiopia." He said even the United States with whom Ethiopia had some "misunderstandings" had not supported Ethiopia's "disintegration" to that extent. "Radical enmity requires a radical answer," he said, adding "and it is not radical enough yet."

Colonel Felleke also accused the French Government, refusing to make any distinction between it and the Socialist Party, of "betrayal". Ethiopia was surprised by the French "interference," he said, because it had come in the wake of the "successful" official visit to Ethiopia at the start of the new year of French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson. At that time the two countries signed a joint communique reaffirming respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

Colonel Felleke recalled that the Socialist Party had, while in opposition, declared support for self-determination for Eritreans.

He said Ethiopia had sought a clarification of this position repeatedly after the Socialists won political power in France in May last year. However, despite the exchange of delegations at the highest levels, France had failed to respond, he said.

The minister also alleged that an Ethiopian delegation, headed by Industry Minister Tesfaye Dinka, that travelled to Paris shortly after Mr Cheysson's visit, was "not received well." "France gave no concrete response to our concrete proposals," Colonel Felleke said, noting that a great deal of faith had been placed in strengthened relations during Mr Cheysson's Ethiopia trip.

TANZANIA

GOVERNMENT DEVALUES SHILLING 10 PERCENT

EA074444 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- Tanzania has devalued its shilling by 10 percent. The value of one U.S. dollar will now be 9.28435 shillings. Announcing this decision this morning, the governor of the Central Bank of Tanzania, Ndugu Charles Nyirabu, explained that the devaluation of our currency is an internal decision and is not related to any conditions of loans from foreign countries. Tanzania last devalued its shilling by 10 percent in 1979.

UGANDA

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT CONCLUDES VISIT 6 MAR

EA062230 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The minister of state for defense in the vice president's office, Mr Peter Otai, has reaffirmed the Uganda Government's determination to consolidate the friendship between Uganda and the DPRK. Speaking at a luncheon in honor of the vice president of the DPRK, Mr Pak Song-chol, at Entebbe airport today, Mr Otai, representing President Obote, said Uganda was very grateful for the assistance the Government of the DPRK is giving to the people of Uganda. Mr Pak Song-chol, on his way to Lusaka, Zambia, has made a 1-hour stopover at Entebbe airport.

In reply to Mr Otai's speech, Mr Pak Song-chol also reaffirmed continued solidarity between the government and the people of his country and Uganda. He hailed the excellent relations between the two countries and thanked the Uganda Government for the hospitality extended to him during the short visit.

OBOTE RECEIVES SUDAN ENVOY, NUMAYRI MESSAGE

JN021143 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Kampala, 2 Mar (SUNA) -- Uganda's President Milton Obote received this morning Sudanese ambassador in Kampala 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman who delivered a special message from President Numayri.

During the meeting, Uganda's president expressed satisfaction with the strong relations between Sudan and Uganda and his appreciation for the aid his country is receiving from Sudan in this important stage of his country's reconstruction.

Regarding the recent events in his country, the Ugandan president said investigations are still underway to determine those responsible for attacking the camps.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICPATASSE ISSUE STRAINS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

AB081830 Paris AFP in French 1615 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Bangui, 8 Mar (AFP) -- The situation of the principal opponent of Gen Andre Kolingba's regime, Ange Patasse, who has taken refuge at the French Embassy in Bangui for the past 2 days, places France-CAR relations at an exceptionally difficult stage, observers in the CAR capital believe.

Central African authorities, however, decline to make any hasty judgment about France's attitude until they receive a precise response to their request for extradition of Mr Patasse for "an attack on the state's internal security." In an interview with AFP, CAR minister of information and culture, Lt Col Christophe Grelombe, even refused "to suppose" that Paris will not deliver to his country's courts the leader of the Central African People's Liberation Movement [MPLC], which was dissolved just after the attempted coup on the night of 3 March and the morning of 4 March.

The Military Committee for National Redress is now certain that Patasse really prepared the abortive coup with the complicity of former ministers of justice and information, Generals Mbaikoua and Bozize, who are still on the run. The three men expected to rely on a popular uprising to overthrow General Kolingba's regime, which has been accused of "treason against the people," authoritative sources in Bangui stated. A few hours before the attempted overthrow of the head of state, tracts attributed to the MPLC, calling for a general uprising of the people were distributed in Bangui. In a statement, Ange Patasse said he considered himself "constitutionally the legitimate head of state," adding that there was "a power vacuum." It is inconceivable under these circumstances that Patasse's behavior should go unpunished, the Central African authorities emphasized. "This abscess should be burst once and for all and the MPLC, which constitutes a permanent destabilizing element, should be neutralized," a top CAR civil servant said.

It is noted in Bangui that a refusal by Paris to the request for Patasse's extradition, officially deposited on Monday by the office of the president, will be received very badly. This position will also strengthen the idea of several leaders that France had a hand in the recent attempted coup d'etat which took place 4 days after Patasse's return to Bangui after a long visit to France, authoritative sources point out. It is also noted that there were "many contacts in the days preceding the abortive coup between the chief plotters and various French civil servants both in Bangui and Paris." However, there has as yet been no tangible evidence to support these presumptions.

On the other hand, observers cannot imagine Francois Mitterrand's France sending a banned party's leader who has just asked for political asylum to his country's court. "Consultations" are going on between Paris and Bangui which could end up in an "agreement" but it will be outside official circles, observers in the CAR capital say.

Meanwhile, the soldiers have decided to "finish with" the "subversion led by the MPLC." Several dozens of its members have been arrested and imprisoned and the hunt continues in the "Patasse-supporters" areas of Bangui.

CHADMINISTER CLAIMS REVIVAL OF GUNT ARMY FORTUNES

PM221507 Paris LE MONDE in French 21-22 Feb 82 p 4

[Text] "The only solution to the Chad crisis is a military one," Chad Minister of Public Works and Transport Facho Balam stated at a press conference in Paris on Friday, 19 February.

He stressed the "cohesion" of the National Unity Transition Government [GUNT] and said he considers the elimination of its main rival, FAN leader Hissein Habre, a precondition of the restoration of peace and democracy. "The government does not intend to appeal for outside help to combat the FAN," Facho Balam said, expressing the view that the balance of forces "is not favorable to Habre's troops."

The situation in the field has evolved in favor of the government troops since 11 February, he added. GUNT forces have recaptured Am Dam (Ouaddai District in the east), Goz (Ouaddai) and Korotoro (in the north central area). That news also was reported on Libyan radio.

The minister said he "gives no credence" to reports of the suspension of French arms supplies to Ndjamena.

With regard to the recent Nairobi summit, Balam accused some "occult forces" in the OAU and "agents of imperialism" of manipulating the meeting. He cited Zaire, which is "materially, financially and logistically supported by the United States," and Togo. Nonetheless, he said, "until we have proof to the contrary, we trust the OAU; but the pan-African force must be a fighting force."

The GUNT is prepared to hold elections, the minister said, and to start a democratic process in Chad.

AFP reports from Ndjamena that President Goukouni Oueddei is to start a tour of the interior this Saturday, especially in the eastern part of the country where fighting is going on between the government forces and the FAN. According to good sources in the Chad capital, 70 FAN fighters came over to the government forces at Am Dam without a fight.

ZAIRE

DPRK VICE PREMIER LEAVES FOR BRAZZAVILLE 4 MAR

AB050938 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0730 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 5 Mar (AZAP) -- The DPRK Government delegation led by Vice Premier Chong Chun-ki left Kinshasa on Thursday for Brazzaville at the end of a 5-day official visit to Zaire.

The delegation was seen off at the Ngobila beach by Yaka Mangono, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, as well as Kwon Song-chol and Jean-Marie Ewenge, ambassadors of the DPRK and the People's Republic of Congo to Zaire respectively. During a meeting with the executive secretary of the MPR at the council building on Wednesday, the DPRK vice premier delivered a message from President Kim Il-song to President Moboto Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR.

MILITARY DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR BELGIUM, FRG

AB081343 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1230 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 8 Mar (AZAP) -- Gen Singa Boyenge Mosambay, chief of staff of the Zairian Armed Forces, left Kinshasa on Sunday on a 15-day mission to Belgium and the FRG.

General Singa will hold talks with army officials of the two countries, according to the Zairian Armed Forces headquarters, on the intensification of military cooperation.

The chief of staff of the Zairian Armed Forces is accompanied by Col Vuadi Nzinga Ne Pazata, commander of the Logistics Corps; Lt Col Shabani Boole, commander of the 21st Infantry Brigade; 2d Lt Watsa Salum, his aide de camp, and Sgt Maj Tambwe, security officer.

GAMBIATRIBUNAL SENTENCES TWO TO DEATH FOR TREASON

AB041753 Paris AFP in French 1715 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Banjul, 4 Mar (AFP) -- A special tribunal today passed two new death sentences against the participants of the 30 July 1981 abortive coup d'etat in Banjul.

The two condemned people, Laming Jatta and Moussa Camara, both members of the "field force" -- the Gambian army -- were found guilty of treason. Laming Jatta participated in the rebellious operations at Kartong, a small town on Gambia's southern border where Kukli Samba Sanyang, the coup leader, had sought refuge before fleeing to Guinea-Bissau. For his part, Moussa Camara took part in rebellious attacks on the police headquarters in Banjul.

These new sentences bring to 17 the number of death sentences pronounced in Gambia since the beginning of the trials in December 1981. So far, no executions have taken place.

GHANASPY ARRESTS CITED AS PROOF OF CONSPIRACIES

AB051446 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Efua Sam commentary]

[Text] Imperialism is at its game again. For all those Ghanaians who either because of ignorance do not understand or because of their narrow selfish interests do not want to believe it, here today are the concrete facts. Imperialism, headed by the United States, will do everything to obstruct attempts of the working and patriotic masses of Ghana to create conditions that will improve their material life conditions and that will enhance their democratic welfare. Imperialism does that everywhere and every time any people want to take their destiny into their own hands.

The arrest and deportation of three spies from the United States and West Germany is ample proof that the stories about conspiracies to militarily invade us or politically intervene in Ghana's affairs were not the concoctions of mad men; they were not fabrications. The diehard supporters and puppets of foreign domination must get it into their skulls that imperialism, Western neocolonialism, will never peacefully leave us alone to carve our own independent and self-reliant path of development.

A few days after the undeniable reports of attempts to invade Ghana by the United States, Britain, France and Nigeria, the executive of the Ghana-American Friendship Association issued a statement claiming that the invasion report was baseless and untrue. In this shame-faced apology for their foreign masters, the misguided friends of America went to the ridiculous extent of twisting all history to pose the question: How can six nations plan to invade Ghana? These friends of the United States, in their extreme show of callousness to grave national matters, were even ready to insult Ghanaian journalists, accusing them of publishing without proper investigations into the matter before publication. But this group of Ghanaians hopefully are merely misguided and mesmerized by the dazzle of American industrial development and cannot see the possibility of this big power in collusion with its allies invading Ghana or subverting our national sovereignty.

There are besides them the more dangerous, more unyielding stooges of foreign domination who, no matter what truth you give, will twist and turn and defend the crimes of the enemies of our freedom. These are those fifty-rich Ghanaians whose wealth essentially derives from their services to the Western monopoly financiers and industrialists.

For them, a fight against their masters hits at them and, to save their own interests, have to willy-nilly defend the master and spite the people.

For 25 years, the West has seen to it economically, politically and culturally that our independence should only remain one of a puppet flag and a debased anthem. So they spy, they plot and they work night and day to make certain that the working masses and patriotic citizens are reduced to paupers and our democracy is reduced to mere phrases mouthed by their agents in politics or their servants in journalism and academia. On the eve of a quarter century of a shattered independence, we cannot feel complacent about the arrest and deportation of a mere three spies. Their exposure only shows that many, many more are in hiding and their particular circumstance shows a deeper problem: that is the genuineness of foreign companies apparently operating here for profits alone is even questioned. However, that the premises of a company like Valco [Volta Aluminum Company] was used as a station of espionage only proves that politics and economics, political domination and super profits are inseparable.

We can only take resolve from the subversive activities of the three agents. We can only safeguard our independence, defend our freedom, deepen our democratic rights by being many many times more vigilant, and to really ensure the defense of our country, of our human rights, and to develop our economy in order to liberate ourselves from the enslavement of Western imperialism. Our most fundamental work must be to mobilize and firmly organize the large majority of working and patriotic people of Ghana. Only the organized and conscious masses alone can defeat imperialism. History has proved this a million times.

Down with the U.S., British, West German and French imperialism!

Papers on Deportation

AB051038 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The deportation from Ghana of three nationals -- two Americans and a German -- for interference and destabilization activities in the country is given wide coverage by the dailies. The DAILY GRAPHIC and the GHANAIAN TIMES carried photographs of the deported men on their front pages. Commenting on the issue under the heading "The Peoples Must Be Vigilant," the GRAPHIC commends the patriotic Ghanaians at Tema, through whose vigilance the three intelligence agents were exposed. The paper calls on all Ghanaians, particularly the people's defense committees, to be extra vigilant. Foreign enemies, says the GRAPHIC, may not be difficult to identify. The defense of the revolution against internal aggression through various forms should be the most important responsibility of all.

It reminds the people's defense committee that the enemies of a people do not sleep and it is only by extra vigilance that they can be hunted and exposed.

FORMER MINISTERS, MP'S RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

AB051525 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] A minister in the ousted Limann government and four former members of Parliament have been released from protective custody after appearing before the national investigations committee. They are: the former minister of transport and communications, Henry Sawyerr; Kweku Baah and Peter Allah-Adjetei. The rest are Odoi-Sykes and Nelson Koffi.

A statement issued today by the national investigations committee, however, said they are to appear before the citizens vetting committee.

Further Releases

ABO60733 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has ordered the release from protective custody of 23 more former parliamentarians and ministers in the ousted Limann administration. The ministers are M.P. Ansah and Dr E.L. Nyakotey. Both were sacked by the ex-president. The MP's include Dr Nii Tackie-Otoo, Dr Abubakar Alhassan, Oliver Sigli Mohamed, Prince Andani, S.K. Bofofo, J.H. Owusu-Acheampong and P.K. Damuah. Others are B.A. Yeboah, Alhaji Shanni Mahama, K.A. Sarpong, and Mrs Dorcas Commey. The others include Takyi Berko, K.A. Appah, K. Baidoo, Isaac Boakye, Yaw Owusu, J.K. Amankrah, G.K.B. Benya, S.B. Diaka, G.E. Amoah and Daniel Donkor.

NIGERIAGHANAIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN LAGOS FOR TALKS

ABO51508 Lagos NAN in English 1455 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, 5 Mar (NAN) -- A six-man Ghanaian delegation led by the chief of defence staff, Brig Nunoo-Mensah, arrived in Lagos today to hold talks with Federal Government officials.

The delegation, which flew into the country in a Ghanaian airforce plane, was received at the airport by the minister of external affairs, Prof Ishaya Audu.

Although members of the delegation refused to speak to newsmen at the airport, the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) understood that the visit was connected with the urgent message sent by Ghana's head of state, Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings, to President Shehu Shagari early this week. Sources close to the Ministry of External Affairs said that Flt Lt Rawlings had expressed the wish to hold talks on important issues with President Shagari. The delegation is expected to return to Ghana today.

Shagari Meeting

ABO52142 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has reiterated that Nigeria has never planned to invade Ghana or any other country in the world. Addressing a seven-man Ghanaian delegation at State House today, the president said he was anxious to disabuse the minds of Ghanaians of the obnoxious rumor. He stated that it was the long held policy of Nigeria not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries whether in Africa or elsewhere. The president attributed the state of relations between Ghana and Nigeria to a misunderstanding which arose from the propaganda started by those he said wished to sow the seed of discord.

The leader of the Ghanaian delegation, Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah, stated that his country had a special affinity to Nigerians, pointing out that nothing would be done to destroy existing friendship between the two countries.

Nunoo-Mensah Statement

ABO90850 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] There have been no secret executions in Ghana since the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] took over power 2 months ago.

Speaking to newsmen in Lagos, the chief of Defense staff [DCS] and member of the PNDC, Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah emphasized that there is no proof in allegations to this effect. He noted that rumors about the alledged secret executions have been (?fluent) between Ghana and Nigeria and said they are deliberate attempts by certain people to sow seeds of discord between the two countries.

Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah, who led an 8-man delegation to Lagos for talks with Nigerian leaders, made it clear that the PNDC believes in fair trial, the rule of law and human rights. He said ousted President Limann is being fairly looked after. The CDS said by his visit, the two countries are now better informed about each other. He said Ghana's needs are enormous and no one country can satisfy her. That is why it is her desire to be close to everybody who wants to be her friend. Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah observed that there is a lot of misconception about Ghana-Libya relations. The PNDC does not think it was right for Ghana to break up relations with Libya, like the deposed Limann government did. The CDS explained that Ghana is evolving a system of government which will involve people at every level. He declared "our situation is unique; our government is not military; our Cabinet is all civilian, it is a government of the people and a true democracy."

Oil Importing Agreement

ABO91215 Accra Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Ghana will soon resume oil lifting from Nigeria. An agreement to this effect was reached in Lagos after talks between a Ghana delegation and President Shehu Shagari. A technical team is now negotiating how soon the lifting will start.

Ghana's delegation to the talks was led by the chief of defense staff and member of the Provisional National Defense Council, Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah. Nigeria suspended oil sales to Ghana about 2 months ago and the GHANA NEWS AGENCY quoted the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation as saying that the suspension was purely commercial and had nothing to do with the overthrow of the Limann administration.

PAPER URGES REJECTION OF CONTACT GROUP PLAN

ABO81244 Lagos International Service in English 1130 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] Last week's promise by British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington that the five-nation contact group on Namibian independence will ensure the success of its negotiations with the racist authorities is examined by the NEW NIGERIAN. According to the paper, Lord Carrington's reassurance shows the extent of a credibility gap existing between the SWAPO and the frontline states on the one hand and the racist occupation government and Western powers on the other hand. THE NEW NIGERIAN calls on SWAPO and the frontline states to maintain their opposition to the latest contact group's proposals of a one man, two vote electoral system.

ANGOLADOS SANTOS RECEIVES SWAPO PRESIDENT 5 MAR

AB051730 Luanda ANGOP in French 1655 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 5 Mar (ANGOP) — Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, received in audience Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president, at Futungo de Belas in Luanda on Friday morning. During the audience, the two leaders discussed the current situation in southern Africa and the development of the decolonization process of Namibia.

Alfonso van Dunen (Mbinda), secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for Foreign Relations, also was present at the talks.

SOLUTIONS TO BORDER PROBLEMS WITH ZAIRE EXAMINED

AB071023 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1633 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Maguela (Angola), 6 Mar (AZAP) — Important border posts between Zaire and Angola will be inventoried to avoid illegal entries from each side. This conclusion was reached by Zairian and Angolan delegates to a meeting held in Maguela in Angola's Suize Province. Zaire was represented by citizen Malumba Mbangula, lower Zaire regional MPR chairman and governor while the Angolan delegation was led by Mr Mariano, representing the Duige regional commissioner.

The two sides agreed that the security of the borders does not pose any serious problems and that incidents caused by crossing problems should be avoided in the future. During the same meeting, the Angolan side informed the Zairian delegation of the opening very soon of four posts at Quimbata, Mbanza-Sosa, Sakandika and Kwango, as well as the openings of three others at Melele, Makumbi and Massawa. On the existence of a clandestine market and smuggling at the Zairian-Angolan border, the two sides agreed to study the best ways to eliminate this trade and also to find better means of supply.

SOUTH AFRICATRANSVAAL NATIONAL PARTY LEADER SELECTED

LD062150 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] The South African minister of minerals and energy affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, has unanimously been elected leader of the National Party of the Transvaal Province. He succeeds Dr Andries Treurnicht who has been suspended from the National Party parliamentary caucus because he did not support a motion of confidence in the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

BLACK COMMUNITIES TO BE GIVEN LOCAL AUTONOMY

LD051304 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Full-fledged city councils, town managements and local committees are to be established in black communities outside South Africa's national states. In terms of the black local authorities bill, published in Cape Town today, the 1977 community councils act is repealed. The bill provides for, among other things, the establishment of city councils and greater city councils with management committees which will be able to achieve full-fledged municipal status, the establishment of town managements and the introduction of local committees in cases where local authorities are not viable.

The minister of cooperation and development, Dr Piet Koornhoff, says in a news release that the measure marks a new dispensation for South African blacks outside the national states. Full-fledged powers are to be transferred to the newly-established bodies and he believes that their independent status will be similar to that of any other local authority. Dr Koornhoff says one of the aims of the legislation is to encourage effective participation of black local communities in local government. Dr Koornhoff says no local government structure can function efficiently without vigorous financial resources. It is the South African Government's intention to grant financial autonomy to the local authorities.

DECENTRALIZATION DISCUSSIONS BEGIN 8 MAR

LD081844 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] The South African Government is discussing the final decentralization concept plans with the governments of the national states in Cape Town today. The first delegation to meet South African officials was that from the state of Gazankulu, under the leadership of the chief minister, Prof Hudson Ntsanwisi, and reports say that agreement was reached on the plans and that the negotiations were held in a very good spirit. Other national states involved in the decentralization talks are Qwaqwa, under the leadership of the chief minister, Mr T.K. Mopeli; Kwandebile, under the leadership of Mr S. Skosana; Lebowa, under the leadership of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi; and Kangwane, under the leadership of Mr E.J. Mabuza. The chairman of the South African delegation is the minister of cooperation and development, Dr Piet Koornhoff. And other delegates include the minister of internal affairs, Mr Chris Heunis, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha.

Our political staff reports from Cape Town that the favorable result of the talks could lead to the formulation of a document which could become a white paper for decentralization and development in southern Africa. An official announcement will probably come from the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

ZAMBIA

AFP SAYS CALM RETURNS TO BORDER WITH ZAIRE

AB081131 Paris AFP in French 0857 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Lusaka, 8 Mar (AFP) -- Calm has returned to the border between Zambia and Zaire after serious incidents last week. The two countries agreed on compensation to the families of the three Zairians killed during the exchange of fire at Sakania in Zaire.

The Zaire-Zambia permanent border commission, which met over the weekend at Kitwa in Zambia, also decided on the withdrawal of the two countries' forces from the border area. Another meeting will take place very soon in Lubumbashi in southeastern Zaire to examine the requests of the families of the Sakania victims.

MP'S WARN NEIGHBORS AGAINST INTERFERING

CA051648 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Members of Parliament yesterday warned certain neighboring countries against interfering in Zambia's internal affairs. Mr Francis Nkhoma, member of Parliament of Mattered, noted that although Zambia had done a lot for Africa, some of the countries that she had assisted were now engaging in activities that were intended to foster chaos in the country by sending bad elements to cause destruction in the country.

Contributing to a debate on the 1982 estimates of expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Nkhoma warned that Zambia was prepared to defend herself should the need arise. He called on the government not to allow the sovereignty of the country to be questioned by anyone, adding that no policemen from neighboring countries in [word indistinct] should be allowed to enter Zambian territory with impunity. Mulfulira member of Parliament, Mr David Lunda, cautioned neighboring countries against being used by certain forces to provoke Zambia because in the event of destabilisation in the country, the region stands to suffer too. Mr Lunda also castigated neighboring countries who keep harassing Zimbians at the borders, saying that this must come to a stop. Liuwa member of Parliament, Mr Namushi Namuchana, called on the government not to fully occupy themselves with the liberating of brothers and sisters in South Africa and Namibia, forgetting her suffering people. Mr Namuchana said the world is big and that Zambia should allow other nations to equally participate in the exercise without overstretching her resources. Mr Cedric Tapapura, member of Parliament for Mwense, warned neighboring countries against pushing Zambia left, right and center because she was prepared to defend herself. Mr Tapapura called for the strengthening of the joint permanent commission so that some of the problems between Zambia and some of her neighbors can be sorted out effectively.

ZIMBABWE

REPUBLICAN FRONT MP GOES INDEPENDENT

CA090640 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Another Republican Front [FR] member of Parliament has resigned, bringing to nine the number of defections from the RF. Mr John Landau, the RF member of Parliament for Avondale and the party's chief parliamentary whip, is to sit in Parliament as an independent. The resignation was announced last night by the RF chairman, Mr Geoff Kluckow. Mr Landau's resignation leaves the RF with [word indistinct] representation of only eight in Parliament.

MINISTER ISSUES WARNING TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

AB040955 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Salisbury, March 4 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe's information minister has warned foreign journalists who write "lies" about the country that the government will act against them.

The minister, Nathan Shamuyarira, made the comment here last night at the opening of a Bulgarian photographic exhibition. Mr Shamuyarira singled out journalists working for publications that "saw Zimbabwe through South African eyes." "We have already withdrawn the accreditation of one correspondent and we are going to adopt a tougher line towards such correspondents," he said.

The reference to the punished journalist was apparently to Hans Germani, a Johannesburg-based correspondent for the West German newspaper DIE WELT, who was told to leave Zimbabwe February 9 and branded an "enemy of the people." Mr Germani said he had incurred official wrath by writing about alleged Soviet influence in the Zimbabwean Government.

Another foreign reporter, Joao Santa Rita, working for the South African-based ARGUS NEWS SERVICE, was expelled later in the month, the ARGUS chain's flagship newspaper THE STAR reported in Johannesburg.